5Days Kansai Sakura

Tour Information: Tour ID: SAT-005-EN

Theme: Japan Sakura Tours

Season: Spring

Availability: Late Match - Early April

Start: Osaka Finish: Osaka Group size: 2-8

Travel style: Family Vacations

Summary

Tours Destinations Osaka – Kyoto Tour Description

The premise is simple and the promise straightforward: Kansai Sakura brings you to the best sakura viewing spots in Kansai.

This 5-day itinerary brings you the highlights of West Japan in two very contrasting cities: the bustling metropolis of Osaka and the reserved city of Kyoto. You will visit the mainstays of Osaka with some extra time devoted to sakura appreciation in the gardens of Osaka Castle. Your visit to Kyoto on the next day will be arranged with an emphasis on different sakura experiences, such as gazing into an ocean of sakura from high up. To top it off, on the fourth day, the whole family will find catharsis in the ever beloved theme park, Universal Studios Japan.

Come and enjoy springtime Kansai on an effective family vacation plan; it is an adventure of pink in just under a week!

Tour Highlights

- Appreciate the world-renowned sakura at the best viewing spots in Kansai
- Have a wonderful time with your family at Universal Studios Japan
- Feast on the most famous crab dishes in Osaka
- Visit a magnificent castle with a classic exterior and a modern interior
- Drink from the sacred streams of a 1,200-year-old temple in Kyoto
- ..And many more!

Itinerary

Day1: Osaka

Arrival at Kansai International Airport o Transfer to Osaka o Hotel check-in o Free day in Osaka

Your driver and guide will be waiting to greet you at the airport. You will be transferred to Osaka using a private car, whereupon you will check into your hotel. You will then be given a briefing and a rundown on your itinerary.

After the exhausting flight to Japan, the family deserves a good rest for the remainder of the day. Drop your luggage, catch a breather, adapt to the surroundings, maybe call your friends at home to share your excitement. You arrived in late winter/early spring, so it may take some time for you to adjust to the cooler temperature. In case you have not already done so, the first day is a good opportunity to exchange your currency for yen and rent a mobile/wi-fi router.

Let the family rest up and get ready for an adventure in Japan!

Day2: Osaka

Osaka Castle → Namba (lunch) → Shinsaibashi → Hotel in Osaka

09:00 - Day start

Your driver and guide will pick you up at the hotel lobby. Bring your coats, hop into the car and enjoy the full-day excursion in Osaka!

09:30 - 12:00 - Osaka Castle

Our first destination is Osaka Castle - the symbol of the city with its 500-year history. You will be able to enjoy panoramic view of Osaka from the castle observatory and visit the castle's museum. Due to the castle being reconstructed in the 20th century, unlike in other castles, getting to the observatory floor is not an exhausting affair of climbing up countless flights of stairs, but merely a matter of taking an elevator. This makes it easier for the family to move around within the castle tower.

The Nishinomaru Garden west to the castle is a beautiful lawn garden with nice views of the castle tower and verdant trees. As this is the peak of the sakura season, the 600 cherry blossom trees will be in full bloom. You can enjoy a hanami (flower viewing) session along with the many local tourists who would visit the garden every year.

The grand Osaka castle is complemented by a massive park, which covers over 1 km2 in surface area. Here you can find many facilities such as concert halls and sports fields, as well as groves and fountains. It is a perfect spot for taking a stroll with your family, or even enjoying a picnic.



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12:30 - 14:30 - Namba (lunch)

We will then head for Namba, the center of the south area of Osaka. Namba is a famous entertainment district in Osaka, with its iconic Glico Man neon sign and, of course, the crab restaurant, Kani Doraku. Here, you will enjoy various crab dishes for lunch. After the fulfilling meal, you will take a stroll around the area to enjoy the bustle of midday Osaka.



14:30 - 16:30 - Shinsaibashi

Shinsaibashi is a short distance away from Namba. This area is a well-known shopping district, with many brand shops, boutiques, and department stores lining up the street. Shinsaibashi's popularity as a shopping area is due to it having something for everyone of every age. For example, there is Amerikamura (American Village) which, as its name suggests, is an American-themed shopping center, making it a popular spot for youths.

Explore Shinsaibashi, and go wild with your shopping!

17:00 - Back at the hotel in Osaka

At the end of the day, you will be transferred back to your hotel. Rest up well, because on the next day you will go on a full-day excursion to Kyoto.

Day3: Kyoto

Transfer to Kyoto → Kiyomizu-dera → Higashiyama (lunch) → Heian Jingu → Kinkaku-ji → Hotel in Osaka

09:00 - Day start

Your driver and guide will be waiting for you at the lobby. Departing Osaka in the morning, we will now enjoy cherry blossoms at ye olde capital of the country, Kyoto.

10:00 - Arrival at Kyoto

10:15 - 11:30 - Kiyomizu-dera

First of all, you will visit Kiyomizu-dera, a venerated Buddhist temple which is more than a thousand years old. Built as a place to worship Kannon (the Goddess of Mercy), this place is best known for the views from its high wooden deck and the three sacred streams of water. Drinking from one of the streams is said to give you blessings.

Behold the veritable sea of sakura from the observation deck of the temple. You will appreciate viewing cherry blossoms from an altitude, which is a different spin on the usual hanami under the cherry trees.

11:45 - 13:15 - Higashiyama (lunch)

Next, we will drive to Higashiyama. The whole district is a preserved historic site, with wooden buildings, narrow pathways, and traditional shops. The traditional atmosphere is reminiscent of Kyoto during its days as the capital of Japan. You will have a full kaiseki meal for lunch here.



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13:45 - 14:30 - Heian Jingu

Your next destination is Heian Jingu, a Shinto shrine built during the Meiji Period. The shrine is named after the city when it was the capital in the Heian Period. The buildings are said to be modeled after the original Imperial Palace of that era, which makes this shrine an interesting historical study despite its relatively young age. The shrine is well-known for its garden of weeping cherry trees (shidare-zakura). You can absorb the historical atmosphere of the shrine while enjoying the characteristic vivid pink of the shidare-zakura.



15:00 - 16:00 - Kinkaku-ji

Last but not least, you will visit Kinkaku-ji, a temple whose shimmering golden reflection on the water has become symbolic of Kyoto. Originally built as a villa for the 3rd shogun of the Ashikaga government, Kinkaku-ji, now a temple, will bedazzle you with its majestic gold-plated exterior.

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17:00 - Back at the hotel in Osaka

Finally, we will drive back to your hotel in Osaka, where you will rest after an full day of sakura. Your guide will give you your USJ entrance tickets for the next day.

Day4: Osaka

Free day at Universal Studios Japan \rightarrow Hotel in Osaka

Equipped with your tickets, take the train to Universal City and let the excitement of the day ensue! The famous USJ houses many rides and attractions, and the number of visitors you will find there both domestic and international is testament to its "universal" appeal. You can immerse yourselves in the wonders of the vast theme park all day long!

When you have had your dose of fun for the year, you will return to your hotel for another stay at Osaka.

Day5: Osaka

Free day in Osaka o Hotel check-out o Transfer to Kansai International Airport

This is your last day in Japan for the trip. You will have free schedule to roam around Osaka at your leisure before checking out. Your driver will pick you up at the hotel to get you to the airport. Have a safe trip home, and tell your friends and relatives back home about your classic springtime sojourn in Japan!

Pricing

2 pers:	3 pers:	4 pers:	5 pers:	<u>6-8 pers:</u>
USD 2.019	USD 1.526	USD 1.279	USD 1.130	USD 1.065

Price Includes

- 4-star hotel with breakfast (4 nights)
- Airport transfer on arrival (private car) with a briefing session
- Airport transfer for departure (private car)
- Full-day escort and private car with driver on days 2 and 3
- Lunch on days 2 and 3
- Entrance tickets on guided days
- Entrance ticket for Universal Studios Japan

Price does Not Include

- Air Tickets to Japan
- Insurance in Japan
- Transportation on free days
- Any additional meals, transportation and entrance tickets outside the ones included
- Personal expenses such as laundry and phone bills