



GREEN WOOD TOURISM CO., LTD.

Room (1003), Panchan Tower, Corner of Bargayar and Dhammazedi Road, Sanchaung T/S, Yangon, Myanmar.
Ph : +951 500675, +951 500676, +951 4411408, Fax : +951 500676

7Days Springtime of Youth

Tour Information:

Tour ID: SAT-003-EN

Theme: Japan Sakura Tours

Season: Spring

Availability: Early – Mid April

Start: Osaka

Finish: Tokyo

Group size: 2-15

Travel style: Youth in Action

Summary

Tours Destinations

Osaka – Kanazawa – Shirakawa-go – Nagano – Matsumoto - Tokyo

Tour Description

For active adventurers who want to experience springtime Japan in its prime, Springtime of Youth offers exciting destinations of unmatched variety!

The beautiful cherry blossoms are always the highlight of the year - and ILJT knows where to enjoy them best! You will visit scenic spots such as a landscape garden, a peaceful village, and a vast castle complex for viewing sakura of different flavors. In addition, you will experience a bit of everything about the Japanese culture, from shopping in an old merchant town in Matsumoto to learning about the intricate tricks of a samurai hideout.

If you are thinking of coming to Japan for its sakura this April, consider coming for more!

Tour Highlights

- Enjoy some of Japan's best sakura spots in early-mid April
- See one of the three most beautiful landscape gardens in Japan
- Learn about the ins and outs of a "ninja" temple full of tricks and traps
- Go to a remote village designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit the beautiful, well-preserved flatland castle in Matsumoto
- ..And many more!



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Itinerary

Day1: Kanazawa – Osaka

Arrival at Kansai International Airport → Transfer to Kanazawa → Hotel check-in → Free day in Kanazawa

Our staff will be waiting to greet you at the airport. You will be given a briefing and a rundown on your itinerary. You will then be handed the tickets and given the instructions to go to Ishikawa Prefecture using an express train called Thunderbird, whereupon you will check into your hotel in the heart of Kanazawa.

After the exhausting flight to Japan, you deserve a good rest for the remainder of the day. Drop your luggage, catch a breather, adapt to the surroundings, and maybe call your family and friends at home to share your excitement. You arrived in early spring, so it may take some time for you to adjust to the cold 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.

Rest well and equip yourselves for the epic springtime adventure to follow!

Day2: Kanazawa

Ninja-dera → Omi-cho (free time) → Kanazawa Castle → Kenrokuen → Hotel in Kanazawa

09:00 - Day start

Your guide will be expecting you at the hotel lobby. Get ready for a full-day excursion in the city of Kanazawa!

09:30 - 11:00 - Ninja-dera

Your first destination is the Myoryu-ji, more commonly known as the Ninja Temple (Ninja-dera). This place is so called not because of its association with ninjas; in fact, the temple was not built by or for ninjas at all. Rather, it is because of its function as a hideout for a samurai family in the past. For this purpose, the temple has a deceiving appearance on the outside, while the interior is actually riddled with traps and secret passageways.

11:30 - 13:00 - Omi-cho (1-hour free time)

After that, we will visit Omi-cho, a fish market also known as the Tsukiji of Kanazawa. You will find many varieties of fresh sea products here, taken from the Sea of Japan. You will have an hour of free time in the market. Feel free to roam around and shop seafood, or maybe go to one of its restaurants, where you can have the ever popular sushi and other dishes for lunch.

13:30 - 14:30 - Kanazawa Castle

Afterward, we will go to Kanazawa Castle, previously property of the Maeda clan which was the wealthiest daimyo family that was only next to the shogun in terms of assets. The castle buildings had burnt down time and again, leaving only the gate and storehouses as the only structures that remained before reconstruction efforts began. Today, you can see the turrets and the main entrance gates, as well as the landscape garden featuring a beautiful pond.



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14:30 - 16:30 - Kenroku-en

The main attraction of the day, Kenroku-en, is just across from Kanazawa Castle, connected by a bridge. Kenroku-en is a massive landscape garden, and it is commonly referred to as one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan, along with Koraku-en and Kairaku-en. Originally the outer garden of the castle, Kenroku-en features many tree groves, such as plum and pine trees and naturally, cherry trees. It also features a tea house, where you can relax, and a beautiful pond with a small island in the middle. The beauty of the garden is such that it is said to have inspired the famous poet Basho to write some of his famous haikus.

Taking a leisurely stroll along the vast premises, you will see the garden in all its springtime glory with the blooming sakura well into mid-April. You can enjoy yourselves by conducting a hanami session with snacks available from the stalls around the outer gates of the garden.



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17:00 - Back at the hotel in Kanazawa

In the afternoon, you will return to your hotel in Kanazawa, where you will rest after a day of extensive walking.

Day3: Kanazawa, Shirakawa-go

Gold Leaf Museum → Transfer to Shirakawa-go → Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go (free time) → Hotel in Kanazawa

10:00 - Day start

The day will start at 10 AM. Your guide will be waiting for you at the hotel lobby.

10:30 -11:30 - Gold Leaf Museum

Your first destination is the Gold Leaf Museum. Kanazawa is well-known as the center of gold leaf production in Japan, supplying 99% of the country's gold leaf. The gold leaf is used for decoration for buildings (such as the golden temple Kinkaku-ji), artworks, and even food. In the museum, you can see gold leaf samples of various colors and compositions, exhibitions of the tools and methods used to produce them, as well as examples of traditional Japanese items that utilize the gold leaf. It is like visiting a Japanese art museum with an extra plating of gold everywhere!

Afterward, we will take the bus to Shirakawa-go, a region located among remote mountains.

13:30 - Arrival at Shirakawa-go



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13:30 - 15:30 - Historic Village of Shirakawa-go (1-hour free time)

The Historic Village of Shirakawa-go is one of Japan's several UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This small village retains much of the classic architecture of old Japan, characterized by their steep roofs that resemble two hands joined in prayer, hence the name "gassho-zukuri" (prayer-hands construction). The roofs are designed as such to withstand the heavy snowfall during winter, and are extremely robust. Due to the materials used, these buildings are extremely prone to fire, and preventive measures such as hydrants and sprinklers are installed rather generously.



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The atmosphere of the village evokes a sense of nostalgia. There are farms and clear streams, as well as a local temple and house museum. The view is especially magnificent during this time of the year, when the snow has just barely thawed and the sakura is in full bloom. You can go up the observatory just a short climb away to capture the whole image of the picturesque village in the middle of the mountains.

You will have an hour of free time here, which you can use to try out local delicacies such as grilled Hida beef in houba miso for lunch. You can also shop around for souvenirs that are unique to the Shirakawa-go region.

17:00 - Back at the hotel in Kanazawa

At the end of the day, you will return to your hotel in Kanazawa where you can rest. You will be given your shinkansen tickets for Days 4 and 6, as well as instructions on how to get to Nagano on the next day.

Day4: Nagano

Hotel check-out → Self-guided transfer to Nagano → Hotel check-in → Free day in Nagano

Time to leave Kanazawa for your next destination, Nagano. Check out of your hotel, and go to the train station as your guide previously instructed you to. You will be riding on a shinkansen (bullet train). Upon arrival, you will check into your new hotel. As with the first day, after the exhausting journey, you will have time to unwind and explore the city at your own pace.



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Day5: Matsumoto, Nagano

Transfer to Matsumoto → Matsumoto Castle → Free time → Nakamachi → Hotel in Nagano

09:00 - Day start

Your guide will be expecting you at the lobby. We will then go on a full-day excursion to Matsumoto.

10:30 - Arrival at Matsumoto

11:00 - 12:30 - Matsumoto Castle

Your first destination is Matsumoto Castle, also known as "karasu-jo" (Crow Castle) due to its black color. It is one of the best preserved castles in Japan, with its structures maintaining much of their wooden construction instead of being rebuilt with iron and concrete. The castle is located on a flatland instead of a hill, even though the city is surrounded by mountains.



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Enjoy a walk around and inside the castle building. The view of the black castle with its turrets and massive moat against the backdrop of the blue sky and mountains is impressive especially in spring, when the many cherry trees are in full bloom. You can have a hanami (flower viewing) session within the castle grounds!





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12:45 - 14:15 - 1-hour free time

You will then have an hour of free time around downtown Matsumoto, which you can use find local dishes such as Shinshu soba for lunch. You will then regroup with your guide for your next destination, Nakamachi.

14:30 - 15:30 - Nakamachi

Just a short walk away is Nakamachi, a street of old merchant storehouses. The buildings that line the small lane are painted white, giving it an authentic feel of a merchant town in the Edo-period. Along the street you can find many small shops selling traditional Japanese snacks, crafts, and apparel. Go wild with your shopping!

17:00 - Back at the hotel in Nagano

Finally, we will take the train back to Nagano where you can rest after the day of excursion. Your guide will provide you with instructions on how to reach Tokyo on the next day.

Day6: Tokyo

Hotel check-out → Self-guided transfer to Tokyo → Hotel check-in → Free day in Tokyo

Equipped with the shinkansen tickets you were previously given by your guide, check out of your hotel and go to the station. You will be riding on another shinkansen. Upon arrival at Tokyo, drop your luggage and check into your hotel. You will then have a free day to roam around Tokyo, the capital city of Japan.

This is your chance to see the Tokyo you have heard so much about! Maybe drop by Shibuya to see the statue of Hachiko, the faithful dog, and the infamous Shibuya Crossing. Or maybe you want to go to Akihabara, paradise for anime lovers and tourists in search of consumer electronics. Make the most of your time in this metropolis!

Day7: Tokyo

Free day in Tokyo → Hotel check-out → Self-guided transfer to Narita International Airport

One week has flown by. You have seen the famed cherry blossoms of Japan across the middle of the country. At the end of your springtime adventure, you will have free schedule to roam around Tokyo at your leisure before checking out and catching your flight at the airport. Make sure to stuff your suitcases full, and have a safe flight home!

Pricing

<u>2 pers:</u>	<u>3 pers:</u>	<u>4 pers:</u>	<u>5 pers:</u>	<u>6-8 pers:</u>	<u>9-15 pers:</u>
<u>USD 1,247</u>	<u>USD 1,067</u>	<u>USD 977</u>	<u>USD 923</u>	<u>USD 888</u>	<u>USD 828</u>

Price Includes

- 3-star hotel (6 nights)
- Airport transfer on arrival (express train)
- Guide on days 2, 3, and 5
- Entrance tickets on guided days
- Train tickets on guided days
- Two shinkansen rides (Kanazawa - Nagano, Nagano - Tokyo)

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



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