2017 CHERRY BLOSSOMS
TOHOKU & HOKKAIDO TOUR

LETS SUPPORT TOHOKU! “GANBATE TOHOKU!”

Explore the Tohoku region during Cherry Blossom season then enjoy an early “Spring-Time” visit to Hokkaido. Enjoy the onsen (hot springs) of Tsunagi and Noboribetsu—a once in a lifetime experience!

9 Nights / 11 Days • Includes English-Speaking Guide
20 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches & 7 Dinners)

TOUR #1: April 12 – 22, 2017 • Tour Managers: Delbert & Gale Nakaoka
TOUR #2: April 14 – 24, 2017 • Tour Manager: Cora Kinney

Visit: Sendai • Matsushima • Kessennuma • Hiraizumi • Tsunagi • Kitakami • Tazawako Morioka • Lake Towada • Aomori • Hakodate • Noboribetsu • Sapporo • Otaru

Visit Japan during cherry blossom season! The blossoms known as sakura, symbolize rebirth and herald the beginning of spring. The Japanese celebrate by visiting temples, castles, and parks, forming impromptu viewing parties. They gather beneath the pink blossoms to indulge in food and drink. Along with cherry blossoms, azalea, wisteria, camellia, and irises bloom in the spring.

Tour Highlights: Cherry Blossom Viewing in Tohoku Region – Kitakami and Hirosaki Park Matsushima Scenic Cruise • Kadowaki School (see the ruins from tsunami and the remarkable recovery taking place in Kesennuma) • Kaisen Seafood Market • Chusonji Oirase Gorge • Lake Towada Cruise • Nebuta House Warasse • Jidai-Mura • Lake Shikotsu Mt. Okura Ropeway • Kitaichi Glass Shop • Asahi Beer Factory • Nikka Whiskey Factory

Your Escorted Cherry Blossoms Tour Includes: Roundtrip Airfare from Honolulu, 9 Nights Hotel Accommodations, 20 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches & 7 Dinners), Matsushima Scenic Cruise, Lake Towada Cruise, Super Hakucho (JR Limited Express Train from Shin-Aomori to Hakodate), Tips for Local Tour Guides & Bus Drivers, All Taxes & Fees.

COMPLETE PACKAGE!
$3625*

INCLUDES ROUNDTrip AIRFARE FROM HONOLULU, 9 NIGHTS HOTEL, 20 MEALS, SIGHTSEEING, TIPS, TAXES AND FEES

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT PER PERSON
SAVE $100 BOOK BY AUGUST 31, 2016†
SAVE $75 BOOK BY OCTOBER 31, 2016†
SAVE $50 BOOK BY DECEMBER 16, 2016†

Call and book your next vacation today!

* Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and INCLUDE ALL AIRLINE TAXES AND FEES. Airline fuel supplements, taxes and fees are subject to change and tour member is responsible for any increases. Some airline-imposed personal charges, including but not limited to baggage, priority boarding and special seating, may apply. For details visit www.exploreflightfees.com. After initial deposit, a $75 per person Non-Stop Travel (NST) Cancellation Fee will apply. Group departures may be cancelled, if there are less than (24) tour members. Final Payment to NST for “non-cruise-line” Air & Land package must be made by Money Order or Personal Check. NST does not guarantee that all tour members will fly together with Tour Manager. Tour Manager assignments and “final” tour itinerary are subject to change. NST reserves the right to correct errors or omissions including but not limited to, fares, fees and surcharges at any time. Deposit: $500. Final Payment Due: Tour #1 12/08/16 • Tour #2 12/10/16.

† Early Booking Discount is per person. Purchase of Non-Stop Travel’s complete Air & Land package is required. 071316
2017 CHERRY BLOSSOMS TOHOKU & HOKKAIDO TOUR DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

Day 1: HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu via ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS flt #181 at 12:45 pm.

Day 2: SENDAI, JAPAN. Arrive Sendai, Japan at 7:40 pm. After entry formalities transfer by coach to hotel. Enjoy a bento box dinner aboard the bus this evening. HOTEL METROPOLITAN SENDAI (2 Nights)

Day 3: SENDAI — MATSUSHIMA — SENDAI. After a sumptuous breakfast buffet at hotel depart for a full day of sightseeing to Matsushima. For hundreds of years, Matsushima Bay has been celebrated as one of Japan’s three most scenic views alongside Miyajima and Amanohashidate. The bay is dotted by over 200 small islands covered by pine trees. Embark on an unforgettable sightseeing cruise. Next visit, Entsuin Temple built in 1646 to house the mausoleum of Date Mitsumune, the son of the ruling local feudal lord Date Terumune. Special treat for lunch: Gyutan, a dish consisting of pieces of thinly sliced beef tongue, cooked over a charcoal grill (other main dishes will be served). Before returning to our hotel our guide will give a brief tour of the Sendai’s shopping area. (B, L, D)

Day 4: SENDAI — KESENNUMA — HIRAIZUMI — TSUNAGI. Today we make our way to Kadowaki Elementary School to witness firsthand the devastation caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011. We then make way to Kesennuma’s Seafood Market, “Umino Ichii” to see the incredible economic recovery taking place. Known as the “shark” fishing capital of Japan, you may want to try a bowl of shark fin soup or a super-fresh seafood donburi for lunch (on own). Be sure to explore the many gift items made from shark skins and support the local economy. Hiraizumi’s most famous attraction, Chusonji Temple was established in 850 as a temple of the Tendai sect of Buddhism. The temple came to prominence when the northern branch of the Fujiwara clan moved their base to Hiraizumi. At its peak, the temple consisted of a large network of dozens of buildings. Enjoy a soak in the luxurious onsen (hot springs) and a Traditional Multi-Course KAISEKI Dinner at your hotel. HOTEL SHION (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 5: TSUNAGI—KITAKAMI — TAZAWAKO — MORIOKA. Kitakami in Iwate Prefecture, is famous for the more than 10,000 cherry trees planted alongside the Kitakami River in Tenshochi Park. The trees are usually in bloom for one to two weeks around late April and form a beautiful tunnel of cherry blossoms that earns the park a spot among the Tohoku Region’s three best cherry blossom spots. During the cherry blossom season, festival visitors stroll along the park’s two kilometer long path which is lined by cherry trees on both sides and covered in a canopy of white blossoms. Next visit Lake Tazawa (Tazawako). A scenic caldera lake that has not been overly developed and retains a natural and rustic atmosphere. At the western end of the lake there is a famous golden statue of a woman named Tatsuko that has become a local symbol. According to legend, Tatsuko was a beautiful girl who prayed to retain her beauty forever but was instead cursed and turned into a dragon and eventually sunk to the bottom of Lake Tazawa.

HOTEL HIGASHI NIHON (1 Night) (B, L)

Day 6: MORIOKA — LAKE TOWADA. Oirase Stream is a picturesque mountain stream in Aomori Prefecture that is one of Japan’s most famous and popular destinations. The stream flows along the floor of the Oirase Gorge, winding among trees which, while a lush green in spring and summer, turn brilliant shades of red, yellow and orange from late October through early November. Over a dozen waterfalls cascade downhill into the stream all along its length from the walls of the gorge. After lunch enjoy a sightseeing cruise on Lake Towada. The largest caldera lake on Honshu, Japan’s main island. It is characterized by two large peninsulas, which extend nearly a third of the way across the lake. This evening enjoy a Western-style dinner at your hotel. TOWADA PRINCE HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 7: LAKE TOWADA — AOMORI — HAKODATE. This morning we make way to Aomori. Hirosaki Park is one of Japan’s best cherry blossom spots. With its abundance of over 2500 trees, cherry blossom tunnels, petal filled moats, numerous pleasant picnic areas, rental rowing boats, many varieties of cherry trees, its history and culture it feels like multiple great cherry blossom spots combined into a single one. Hirosaki Castle was built in 1611 by the Tsugaru Clan. A three-story castle tower, fortified moats, castle gates and some corner turrets (yagura) survive or were reconstructed. Next visit the Nebuta House Warasse, an interesting museum dedicated to the city’s famous Nebuta Matsuri which is held annually in early August. The museum attempts to capture the spirit of the festival and gives visitors a taste of its lively atmosphere, history and traditions After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Hakodate by “Super Hakuko — JR Limited Express Train”. To travel between the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido, trains pass through the Seikan Tunnel, the longest seabed tunnel in the world. After dinner at your hotel enjoy a spectacular “night-view tour”. HAKODATE KOKUSAI HOTEL (1 Night) (B, L, D)

Day 8: HAKODATE — NOBORIBETSU ONSEN. After breakfast, visit the world-famous Hakodate Morning Market. Sample a variety of freshly caught seafood. Next visit, Fort Goryokaku, a massive, star shaped, Western style citadel, which was built in the last years of the Edo Period for the defense of Hakodate against the imperialist threat posed by the Western powers. After the fort had lost its military importance, it was turned into a public park. Now make way to Noboribetsu Jidai Mura, a history theme park highlighting the Edo Period, one of the most attractive era in Japanese history. Step back in time to enjoy traditional games, activities, theaters, street performances and more. The charm of ancient Japan is abundant as you mingle with the Ninja and Onin courtesans so symbolic of the Edo Period. This evening enjoy a soak in the onsen (hot springs) and a Crab and Seafood Buffet. HOTEL MAHOROBA (1 Night) (B, D)

Day 9: NOBORIBETSU — SAPPORO. Lake Shikotsu is located in southwestern Hokkaido, west of the city of Chitose. It is a crater lake that was formed over 40,000 years ago by volcanic activity, and it has a maximum depth of 363 meters, making it the second deepest lake in Japan. Now we make way to Sapporo. First we stop at the Susukino Shopping Area for a lunch break at the famous Susukino Shopping Area and Asahi Beer Factory. Afterwards, go to Kitakori Bakery where you can buy a delicious soybean paste called “moji-an”. Afterwards, make your way to the Haruno Jidai Mura, a history theme park highlighting the Edo Period, one of the most attractive era in Japanese history. Step back in time to enjoy traditional games, activities, theaters, street performances and more. The charm of ancient Japan is abundant as you mingle with the Ninja and Onin courtesans so symbolic of the Edo Period. This evening enjoy a walk through the Susukino district and enjoy a traditional Multi-Course KAISEKI Dinner at your hotel. SAPPORO CENTURY HOTEL (2 Nights) (B)

Day 10: SAPPORO — OTARU — SAPPORO. This morning visit Otaru which served as a major trade and fishing port in the 1800’s. The Otaru Canal makes for a pleasant stroll. Enjoy a walking tour with your tour guide. Visit Kitaichi Glass Shop, Le Tao Sweet Shop & Cafe & Kitakoro Bakery. On our way back to Sapporo, stop at Asahi Beer Factory. This evening let’s celebrate new friendships and discoveries at our Farewell Dinner! (B, D)

Day 11: SAPPORO — HONOLULU. Morning at leisure. We make our way to Chitose. A brief stop at the Nikka Whiskey Factory. Then one last shopping stop at the AEON MALL before checking in for our flight home. Depart via ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS at 9:30 pm. Arrive Honolulu, same day at 10:15 am. Aloha and Welcome Home! (B)

Explore Japan on your next vacation!

Book early and save!