

9 Days Japan Cherry Blossom Tour 2026: Most Popular Sakura Tour in Group

Trip overview

Embark on an unforgettable 9-day journey through Japan's most iconic golden route during the magical cherry blossom season. Starting in the futuristic metropolis of **Tokyo**, your adventure takes you from bustling urban districts to the serene landscapes of **Mount Fuji** and **Lake Kawaguchi**.

Ride the world-famous **Shinkansen (Bullet Train)** into the cultural heart of Japan: **Kyoto**. Here, you will walk through vermilion torii gate tunnels, marvel at shimmering golden Zen pavilions, stroll preserved historic lanes, and participate in an authentic tea ceremony. Continue to ancient **Nara** to meet bowing sacred deer before concluding your journey amid the vibrant neon streets and legendary culinary scene of **Osaka**. Perfectly timed for spring sakura blooms, this tour offers an ideal mix of UNESCO World Heritage sites, rich traditions, and seamless travel comfort.

- **Durations:** 9 Days
- **Destinations:** Tokyo - Kyoto - Osaka
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://www.asiachinatour.com/9-days-japan-cherry-blossom-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Tokyo — Arrival & Independent Hotel Transfer

Welcome to Tokyo, Japan's electric capital where ultra-modern skyscrapers meet historic shrines! Upon landing at Narita International Airport (NRT) or Haneda Airport (HND), make your way independently to your conveniently located 4-star hotel in central Tokyo.

Spend the remainder of your arrival day settling in and exploring nearby neighborhoods at your own pace. Discover neighborhood ramen shops, stroll illuminated street markets, or relax at your hotel to recharge for the exciting Japan journey ahead.

Meals: /

Accommodation: Tokyo (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Taking fast express trains is the most efficient and cost-effective way to reach central Tokyo from both major airports. From Narita Airport (NRT), the JR Narita Express (N'EX) provides direct connections to Tokyo, Shinjuku, and Shinagawa stations in roughly 60 minutes, while the Keisei Skyliner connects to Ueno in just 36 minutes. From Haneda Airport (HND), the Tokyo Monorail or Keikyu Line brings you to the city center in under 30 minutes. Purchasing a digital IC card (Suica or Pasma) on your smartphone upon arrival makes navigating local subways effortless.

Day 2: Spring Blossoms & Urban Landmarks — Ueno Park, Historic Asakusa, Meiji Shrine & Shibuya

Begin your morning surrounded by over 1,300 cherry trees at **Ueno Park**, one of Tokyo's most celebrated sakura viewing destinations. Stroll beneath delicate pink canopies before heading to **Sensō-ji** in Asakusa, Tokyo's oldest temple complex founded in 628 AD. Walk through the iconic Kaminarimon Gate with its massive red lantern, admire the majestic five-story pagoda, and capture photographs framing the ancient temple structures against the towering modern backdrop of the Tokyo Skytree.

In the afternoon, transition from historic streets to tranquil woodland paths at **Meiji Jingu**, a Shinto shrine nestled inside a 70-hectare forest of 100,000 donated trees. Pass beneath Japan's largest wooden torii gate, observe traditional purification rituals, and view the decorative wall of sake barrel offerings. Conclude your day at **Shibuya Crossing**, experiencing the electric pulse of the world's busiest pedestrian intersection and paying a visit to the nearby bronze statue of Hachiko.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Tokyo (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Spring cherry blossoms at Ueno Park and Asakusa peak between late March and early April, attracting lively crowds of locals enjoying traditional hanami picnics. When visiting Meiji Shrine, remember to walk along the sides of the main pathway rather than down the exact center, as the middle lane is reserved for the Shinto deities according to tradition.

Day 3: Sacred Vistas & Alpine Waters — Tokyo Day Excursion to Mount Fuji & Lake Kawaguchi

Journey west from Tokyo toward the iconic snow-capped peak of **Mount Fuji** (3,776m), Japan's highest mountain and a sacred UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stop first at Arakurayama Sengen Park to climb the steps up to the famous observation deck near Chureito Pagoda, capturing one of Japan's most quintessential photographic perspectives framing the crimson five-story pagoda, seasonal cherry blossoms, and the symmetrical cone of Mount Fuji.

Continue to the shores of Lake Kawaguchi, where you will board a scenic pleasure boat cruise across the tranquil, crystal-clear alpine waters. Relax as you admire panoramic reflections of Mount Fuji along the northern shore before enjoying a leisurely stroll past lakeside gardens and artisan craft shops, then returning to Tokyo in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Tokyo (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Mount Fuji's peak visibility is best during clear, early morning hours, particularly in winter and early spring. Standard day tour allocations cover an 8-hour service window for guide and private vehicle operations; early departures from Tokyo help avoid highway traffic and ensure optimal weather windows for mountain photography.

Day 4: High-Speed Rail Journey to Japan's Ancient Capital — Tokyo to Kyoto & Evening at Leisure

Meet your driver in your hotel lobby for a comfortable private transfer to **Tokyo Station**. Board the iconic **Shinkansen (Bullet Train)** for a swift and scenic 2.5-hour journey west across Japan's countryside toward Kyoto. Watch urban skylines gradually yield to rolling hills and coastal views—and on clear days, catch a glimpse of **Mount Fuji** from your window.

Upon arrival at **Kyoto Station**, your private driver will greet you at the platform exit and escort you to your hotel for check-in. Spend the afternoon and evening exploring Japan's ancient imperial capital at your own pace. Enjoy a peaceful sunset stroll along the stone path of the **Philosopher's Path** lined with cherry trees, or relax with a riverside dinner along the **Kamo River**, where traditional wooden dining terraces overlook the water.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Kyoto (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Reserving seats on the right side of the Shinkansen (Seats E/D in standard cars) when traveling from Tokyo to Kyoto offers the best chance of viewing Mount Fuji as the train passes Shizuoka. In Kyoto, the elevated dining terraces (Kamogawa Yuka) along the Kamo River operate primarily from May through September, offering an idyllic setting for authentic regional cuisine.

Day 5: Timeless Temples & Heritage Traditions — Kiyomizudera, Historic Streets, Gion & Tea Ceremony

Begin your day at **Kiyomizudera Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its grand wooden stage constructed entirely without nails. Take in sweeping views of Kyoto framed by spring cherry blossoms, try a scoop of sakura ice cream, and visit the sacred **Otowa Waterfall** to sip its pure waters. Continue your walk down the historic stone-paved slopes of **Ninenzaka & Sannenzaka**, where traditional wooden *machiya* townhouses serve regional snacks and handcrafted souvenirs.

Walk onward through **Maruyama Park** to admire its grand weeping cherry tree (*shidarezakura*), then enter the lantern-lit alleys of **Gion**, Kyoto's premier geisha district. As dusk approaches, explore preservation streets such as **Hanami-koji** to appreciate preserved tea houses (*ochaya*) and catch a glimpse of *geiko* or *maiko* attending evening appointments. Conclude your day with an authentic **Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony**, learning the ceremonial arts of matcha preparation and Zen philosophy before returning to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Kyoto (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Exploring the sloping stone paths of Ninenzaka and Sannenzaka early in the day avoids peak afternoon crowds, making for ideal photography conditions. When exploring Gion, please adhere to local etiquette guidelines by staying on public thoroughfares, respecting private residential side alleys, and photographing geiko or maiko only from a respectful distance.

Day 6: Golden Palaces, Shogunate History & Arashiyama Bamboo Groves

Start your morning at **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)**, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its top two floors shimmering in real gold leaf above the mirror-like Kyoko-chi Pond. Continue to **Nijo Castle**, the historic 17th-century seat of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Step inside Ninomaru Palace to experience its famous "nightingale floors" that chirp underfoot to detect intruders, and admire grand Kano school wall murals set within traditional landscape gardens.

In the afternoon, travel to the scenic western district of Arashiyama. Depending on spring ticket availability, enjoy either a charming ride on the **Sagano Scenic Railway** along the Hozugawa River gorge or a tranquil 30-minute excursion on a traditional **Yakatabune Houseboat**. Afterward, wander through the soaring green stalks of the **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove**, explore the Zen gardens of **Tenryuji Temple**, and cross the iconic wooden **Togetsukyo Bridge** before returning to downtown Kyoto.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Kyoto (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Morning visits to Kinkakuji Temple allow you to catch the golden pavilion illuminated by early sunlight before peak afternoon crowds arrive. In Arashiyama, the Sagano Romantic Train and Yakatabune boat rides offer exceptional perspectives of spring cherry blossoms along the Hozugawa River Valley.

Day 7: Vermilion Shrine Paths & Ancient Imperial Heritage — Kyoto to Nara & Osaka

Start early in Kyoto to explore **Fushimi Inari-taisha Shrine** before the morning crowds arrive. Walk beneath thousands of vibrant orange torii gates along the famous **Senbon Torii** corridor winding up Mount Inari, passing dozens of sacred stone fox statues (*kitsune*) holding symbolic keys to the granary.

Board your private vehicle for a comfortable 1.5-hour drive to **Nara**, Japan's first permanent capital. Visit **Todaiji Temple**, home to the Great Buddha (*Daibutsu*)—a 16-meter-tall bronze masterpiece housed within one of the world's largest wooden buildings. Continue into **Nara Park** to feed bow-performing sacred deer with traditional *Shika Senbei* crackers, then stroll down stone lantern pathways to **Kasuga Taisha (Kasuga Grand Shrine)** to admire its bronze and stone lanterns. Conclude your day with a short drive to **Osaka** for hotel check-in and an overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Osaka (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Reaching the Yotsutsuji Intersection on Mount Inari takes about 30 to 40 minutes of hiking and rewards visitors with sweeping panoramic views over Kyoto. In Nara Park, the free-roaming deer are revered as divine messengers in Shinto belief; bowing gently while holding a deer cracker often prompts them to bow back before receiving their treat.

Day 8: Feudal Legends, Street Food Revelry & Nostalgic City Lights — Full-Day Osaka Highlights

Begin your morning at **Osaka Castle Park**, exploring the majestic **Main Tower (Tenshukaku)**, towering stone moats, and the 600 cherry trees of **Nishinomaru Garden**. Continue into the Namba area to visit the **Kamigata Ukiyoe Museum**, the world's only museum dedicated to permanent displays of Kamigata woodblock prints capturing real Edo-period kabuki actors.

In the afternoon, dive into Osaka's famous culinary culture along **Shinsaibashi-suji Shopping Street** and the lively canal promenade of **Dotonbori**. Snap iconic photos by the **Glico Man sign** and sample local street eats like *takoyaki* (octopus balls) and *okonomiyaki* savory pancakes. Conclude your tour at **Namba Yasaka Shrine** to marvel at its lion-head main hall, followed by an evening walk through the nostalgic Showa-era district of **Shinsekai** beneath the retro neon glow of **Tsutenkaku Tower**.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Osaka (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Dotonbori is exceptionally vibrant in the late afternoon and early evening when canal neon reflections light up the waterfront promenade. Visiting Namba Yasaka Shrine before dusk offers ideal lighting to photograph its giant 12-meter lion head structure without heavy crowds.

Day 9: Farewell Osaka — Individual Airport Departure & Onward Journey

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast at your hotel as your memorable 9-day Japan Cherry Blossom Tour draws to a close. Depending on your flight schedule, check out of your hotel and head independently to **Kansai International Airport (KIX)** or **Itami Airport (ITM)**. Enjoy convenient direct access via high-speed airport express trains, such as the **JR Haruka Express** from **Osaka Station** or the **Nankai Rapi:t Express** from **Namba Station**.

Safe travels on your journey home, and thank you for traveling with Asia Odyssey Travel!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: None (Departure Day)

Expert Journey Insights:

*For international departures from **Kansai International Airport (KIX)**, we recommend arriving at the terminal at least 3 hours prior to your scheduled flight time. Private door-to-door hotel transfers to the airport can easily be pre-booked with Asia Odyssey Travel upon request.*

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

Tel:

Beijing: +86 904-6699-222

Chengdu: +86 904-6699-234

Lhasa: +86 904-6699-253

Cambodia: +84 904-6699-555

Address:

Address 1: Floor 4, Global Center, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Address 2: Chaoyang Road No.21, Guilin, Guangxi, China

Email:

info@asiachinatour.com

Website:

www.asiachinatour.com