



HIGHLIGHTS

- + Walk the Philosopher's Path under a canopy of fluttering cherry blossom
- + See Kyoto's two great pavilions, the Silver Pavilion, Ginkaku-ji, and the Golden Pavilion, Kinkaku-ji
- + Join a tea ceremony performed by a tea master and special dinner with a geisha/maiko
- + Experience the famous Zen garden at Ryoan-ji
- + Walk the recently opened halls of the rebuilt Honmaru Palace, Nagoya Castle
- + Visit Kenroku-en, one of Japan's most important gardens
- + Travel in a small group and make new friends

For a detailed itinerary, please visit:
www.rosstours.com/japan-in-spring



TOUR LEADER
BRENT REID

Brent is a well-respected landscape designer with an unwavering passion for plants and horticulture. He is looking forward to taking this group to see the best of the cherry blossoms.

Let us take you to the most beautiful places in the world.

JAPAN

AT CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME



Ross Garden Tours were first to establish Japan as a garden tour destination back in 1980. We've made friends with the country's masters of horticulture and they are keen to share their knowledge with you. We go beyond the extraordinary gardens, to give you an experience of the culture, traditions and unique atmosphere of Japan. I'm sure it will captivate you as it has me.

Graham Ross

Graham Ross VMM, Founder



1 – 15 APRIL 2019

Follow the cherry blossom trail as it blooms across Kyoto, Kanazawa, Nikko and Tokyo on a 14-day tour that takes you inside Japan's great gardens. Experience a fascinating mix of ancient Zen serenity and modernity that makes Japan such an exciting cultural destination.

TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT ROYCE OR ROSLYN



1300 233 200



travel@rosstours.com

Visit our website www.rosstours.com



MEMBER

ACCREDITED





ITINERARY

DAY 1 MON 1 APR HOME TO TOKYO

Meet at Sydney Airport for the overnight flight or meet in Kyoto on Day 2.

DAY 2 TUE 2 APR TOKYO TO KYOTO

On arrival, we'll take the bullet train to Kyoto, the former imperial capital of Japan. Our first garden is Heian Shrine with an avenue of 300 weeping flowering cherries. It's a popular venue for weddings and we can expect to see brides in exquisite bridal kimono. Welcome lunch included today.

DAY 3 WED 3 APR KYOTO

Legend has it that Ginkakuji - the Silver Pavilion - was to be covered in silver leaf, but the Shogun died before that could happen. Next stop, Hakusa Sonso, a Garden where we'll join a tea ceremony and enjoy lunch at the family's restaurant. Stroll the famous Philosopher's Path under thousands of cherry trees with perfumed spring shrubs scenting the way.

DAY 4 THU 4 APR KYOTO

The pinnacles of Japanese garden design today. First, we catch the glowing light on the 18-carat gold

leaf-covered Golden Pavilion. Ryoanji Temple is next, Japan's finest example of a rock and sand garden. After lunch, visit Gyoji Temple surrounded by a luxuriant moss garden. Finish the day at Arashiyama with a walk through a bamboo forest.

DAY 5 FRI 5 APR KYOTO

An early start at Kyoto's eastern Higashiyama Mountains to wonder at the towering, World Heritage listed, Kiyomizu Temple. Next is Nijo Castle and Ninomaru Garden with 430 'Sakura' cherry trees. A special dinner tonight with a geisha/maiko performance.

DAY 6 SAT 6 APR KYOTO TO NAGOYA

Travel by bullet train to Nagoya to see Honmaru Palace, Nagoya Castle. This afternoon visit Nabana No Sato. This theme park is a new concept in world-class show gardens with beds filled with spring flowers and glasshouses overflowing with tuberous begonias and more hanging baskets than you can count. After dark enjoy one of Japan's largest illumination shows.

DAY 7 SUN 7 APR NAGOYA TO KANAZAWA

Express train north through

Japan's picturesque countryside to Kanazawa. Kanazawa is a lovely change of pace where traditional crafts, such as ceramics, embroidery and gold leaf work are still practised. Next, we visit Nomura Samurai House with a garden of meandering streams, waterfalls, lanterns, plants and moss all exquisitely arranged.

DAY 8 MON 8 APR KANAZAWA

Visit Kenrokuen Garden which combines the six essential features of true gardens: vastness, symmetry, solemnity, coolness, antiquity and pleasure. Walk through Seisonkaku Villa, built by a samurai for his mother.

DAY 9 TUE 9 APR KANAZAWA TO AWAZU

A once-in-a-lifetime experience today, travel deep into the Japan Alps to visit UNESCO World Heritage Shirakawago Village. Traditional farmhouses have steep thatched roofs, called Gassho Zukuri. A Japanese ryokan tonight and a kaiseki dinner. Enjoy a traditional hot onsen bath.

DAY 10 WED 10 APR AWAZU TO NIKKO

Take the train via Kanazawa to Takasaki, then coach to Nikko where we will tour the interior of the

Tamozawa Imperial Villa (former summer palace) and enjoy the beautiful garden. Check-in to the 145-year-old Nikko Kanaya Hotel. Dinner included at the hotel tonight.

DAY 11 THU 11 APR NIKKO

A walking tour of the World Heritage listed Toshogu Shrine. Visit the Sacred Bridge, Kanaya Samurai House and Rinnoji temple.

DAY 12 FRI 12 APR NIKKO TO TOKYO

Visit Omiya Bonsai Village and Omiya Bonsai Art Museum. This afternoon arrive at the New Otani Hotel, Tokyo. Enjoy the beautiful gardens of the hotel.

DAY 13 SAT 13 APR TOKYO

A stroll around Rikugien Garden takes us around a lake, with stops representing scenes from classical Japanese literature. Visit Meiji Shrine and Nezu Shrine. Farewell dinner tonight.

DAY 14 SUN 14 APR TOKYO TO HOME

Late check out today. Free day to explore more of Tokyo. Evening transfer to Tokyo's Haneda Airport for our flight home.

DAY 15 MON 15 APR ARRIVE HOME

+ OUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Return Qantas flights (including taxes) Sydney / Tokyo / Sydney
- Shinkansen (bullet train) and express train travel
- Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach throughout the tour
- Deluxe accommodation for 12 nights, including an overnight stay at a traditional Japanese Ryokan
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)
- Breakfast daily, plus 3 lunches and 5 dinners
- English speaking National Japanese Guide
- Guided tours of Kyoto, Kanazawa, Nikko and Tokyo
- Entrance fees to all gardens and sightseeing including, Heian Shrine, Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), Hakusa Sonso, Ginkakuji (Silver Pavilion), Ryoanji, Gyoji Temple, Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, Kiyomizu Temple, Nijo Castle, Ganko Takasegawa Nijoen, Nabana no Sato, Nagoya Castle, Nomura Samurai House, Shinise Kinenkan Museum, Kenrokuen, Seisonkaku Villa, Shirakawago Village, Tamozawa Imperial Villa, Kanaya History House, Toshogu Shrine, Shinkyo Sacred Bridge, Rinnoji Temple, Omiya Bonsai Museum, Rikugien Garden, Nezu Shrine and Meiji Shrine
- Fully escorted by Brent Reid

+ OUR TOUR COSTS

- Twin Share per person, land only \$11,695
- Twin Share per person, including air \$12,995
- Single Supplement \$2,995

+ DISCOUNTS

- Early Bird \$300 (pay in full before 1/11/18)
- Previous Traveller \$100 • Garden Clinic Member \$50

All prices in Australian Dollars. All air taxes as at 1st June 2018. Price based on minimum 15 passengers. Departure from Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane. Price from other Australian ports and New Zealand available on application. Group meals do not include beverages. Please refer to Ross Garden Tours standard terms & conditions. Ask us about other pre and post tour accommodation and other tours.