

relax, explore, discover . . . new friendships!



Head Office
Level 1, 361 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

T 1300 885 255

hayley@sisterhoodwomenstravel.com.au

www.sisterhoodwomenstravel.com.au

a unique travel experience just for women

Cherry Blossoms of Japan

18 Days | Departing Wednesday 28th March 2018 and returning Saturday 14th April 2018



A Perfect Time for
Cherry Blossom
Viewing!

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS:

- City sightseeing tour of Tokyo
- Cherry Blossom Viewing at Ueno Park
- Visit to Old Tokyo City
- Visit to Nakamise Shopping Centre
- Visit to Asakusa Sensoji Temple
- Cherry Blossom viewing at Chidorigafuchi and Hamarikyū Garden
- Flower Arranging Class
- Japanese Etiquette Lesson
- Visit to Tsukiji Fish Market - the world's largest!
- Visit to Hakone Open Air Museum
- Cruise on Lake Ashi with magnificent views of Mt Fuji
- Ride on the Hakone Ropeway Gondola
- Visit to the town of Yamanouchi famous for Snow Monkeys
- 2 nights stay in traditional Japanese Ryokans
- City sightseeing tour of Takayama
- Visit to Hida Folk Village
- Visit to Kami Sannomachi "Preserved Housing" District
- Washi Japanese Paper Making Class in Gokayama
- City sightseeing tour of Kanazawa
- Visit to Gold Leaf Museum in Kanazawa
- Visit to Kenrokuen Garden - top 3 landscaped garden in Japan
- Traditional Tea Ceremony in Kyoto
- Exclusive Meet and Greet with an "Apprentice" Geisha
- Visit to Sagano Bamboo Grove
- Kimono Fitting Class
- Cherry Blossom viewing including Heian Jingu Shrine, Ryonaji Temple and Golden Pavilion
- Views of Cherry Blossoms at World Heritage Site of Nijo Castle
- Kimono Silk Dyeing Class
- Cherry Blossom viewing at World Heritage Site Kiyomizu Temple
- Visit to Peace Memorial Museum at Hiroshima

PRICE: \$11,499.00 per person twin share
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$2,300.00

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Fully Escorted Tour – Your Sisterhood Tour Hostess is on hand to assist with making your holiday a memorable one
 - Return airfares ex Melbourne with Cathay Pacific including taxes (Other departure cities upon request)
 - Private transportation throughout
 - All meals as described in itinerary
 - All sightseeing as described in itinerary
 - Willing to Share option
 - Document Distribution Day subject to minimum numbers
- ** Please contact Sisterhood Central for Premium Economy/Business Class Upgrades

itinerary

DAY 1 Wednesday 28 March 2018 **Melbourne – Tokyo ~ (Meals Inflight)**

Welcome to Sisterhood Womens Travel. Your tour hostess and fellow travellers will meet you at the designated departure point at Melbourne Airport for your flight to Tokyo via Hong Kong. Sit back, relax and enjoy your flight.

DAY 2 Thursday 29 March 2018 **Welcome to Tokyo ~ (D)**

An early morning arrival into Narita Airport, we'll be met by our English speaking guide and transferred to our hotel in Tokyo.

Tokyo is the capital of Japan, a city with 12 million residents and 3 million further commuters from neighbouring cities daily, for a total of 15 million people on most days. Famous for its spectacular architecture, futuristic displays, upmarket shopping and unique fashion sense.

The remainder of the day is free to begin exploring with dinner tonight at the hotel.

Our Accommodation – Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa

DAY 3 Friday 30 March 2018 **Sightseeing in Tokyo ~ (B,L)**

Today, we will be taken on a full day tour of Tokyo city.

Taking advantage of the season, the day will start at 9am with a visit to Ueno Park for some cherry blossom viewing. Ueno Park is home to many art, history, science and technology museums, and is one of the best places in Tokyo to view cherry blossoms.

The visit to Ueno Park is followed by Asakusa, in the old part of Tokyo city. This is the neighbouring district to Ueno, and Asakusa Sensoji Temple here is one of the most celebrated temples in Tokyo. A visit to Nakamise Shopping arcade here will be a good opportunity to pick up some trinkets and local goods for souvenirs. Lunch is included at a local restaurant, before more cherry blossom viewing at Chidorigafuchi, and Hamarikyū Garden.

Today's sightseeing finishes at our hotel mid afternoon with the rest of the day free at leisure.

DAY 4 Saturday 31 March 2018 **Tokyo ~ (B,D)**

After breakfast we will be taken to Sogetsu Kaikan for a flower arrangement (ikebana) and Japanese etiquette lesson. We have the rest of the day free to explore the many shops in our area.

This evening we'll enjoy dinner on board a Yakatabune (Japanese style houseboat), including a cruise on Tokyo Bay.

DAY 5 Sunday 1 April 2018 **Tokyo ~ (B)**

This morning, we'll be visiting the Tsukiji Fish Market, the largest wholesale fish market in the world. Following this, we'll take part in a Sushi Making lesson, conducted by a professional sushi chef.

Today's activities conclude at the hotel mid afternoon with the remainder of the day free.

DAY 6 Monday 2 April 2018 **Tokyo ~ (B,L)**

A full day tour to Hakone is in store today beginning with a ride on the Hakone Ropeway (gondola) across Owakudani valley, open areas in the crust revealing hot spring steam and smoke a famous attraction here.

This is followed by a cruise along the picturesque Lake Ashi; on clear days, the view of Mt Fuji is magnificent from here.

We'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, before a stroll along the Old Cedar Avenue, through to Hakone-machi. We'll make a round trip along the cruise and ropeway back towards Gora, finishing up with a visit to Hakone Open Air Museum, with world famous art works on display in a meticulously maintained landscape garden.

Our day concludes with dinner at leisure tonight.

DAY 7 Tuesday 3 April 2018 **Tokyo – Biyu no Yado ~ (B,L,D)**

After breakfast and checking out of our hotel today, we will be taken by coach to the town of Yamanouchi (lunch included along the way), famous for the Japanese Macaque, or more commonly known as "Japanese Snow Monkey".

Jigokudani Park, located in the Kanbayashi Onsen area in Yamanouchi is the main attraction here, and we will be taken to see the snow monkeys bathing in the hot springs among the snow.

Tonight, we will be experiencing our first traditional "Ryokan" (Japanese guest house) stay, at Biyu no Yado. Our room will be a tatami mat Japanese room with futons to sleep on. Service will be exceptional, and a beautiful traditional Japanese banquet dinner and breakfast await. We will also have the opportunity to use the natural hot springs, with 2 private hot springs available for our use on the rooftop.

Our Accommodation – Biyu no Yado Japanese Guest House.

DAY 8 Wednesday 4 April 2018 **Takayama ~ (B,L,D)**

After breakfast today we will travel to the town of Takayama in the Japan Alps. Lunch is included at a local restaurant along the way.

Takayama is a countryside farming town, famous for its traditional Japanese preserved architecture. Takayama has been well known in the past for producing some of Japan's best architects and builders, and as such, part of the city has been preserved as National Treasures. Hida Beef, is also well known throughout Japan, rivalling even Kobe beef as some of the highest quality beef available.

The rest of the day is free at leisure in Takayama with dinner included at the hotel tonight.

Our Accommodation – Hotel Associa Takayama Resort.

DAY 9 Thursday 5 April 2018 **Takayama ~ (B,L)**

Today we will enjoy a full day guided tour of Takayama.

First up will be a visit to Takayama Morning Market, a market where farmers' wives from neighbouring villages come each morning to hawk fresh produce. Following this will be a visit to Hida Folk Village, a museum that will allow us to learn about country farming life in the Japan Alps.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will have the afternoon free to stroll around Takayama, or relax at the hot springs at our hotel. Later this afternoon our guide will take us on a stroll around the Kami Sannomachi "Preserved Housing" district, with a return to our hotel once more after.

Dinner tonight will be at our own expense; we highly recommend a barbecue Hida Beef dinner at a local restaurant.

itinerary

DAY 10 Friday 6 April 2018 **Kanazawa ~ (B,L)**

Today, we will travel to Kanazawa by coach, with a stopover in Gokayama to participate in “washi” (Japanese paper) making. The region of Gokayama is arguably the most famous in Japan for its washi. Lunch is included at a local restaurant, before arriving in Kanazawa mid afternoon.

Kanazawa is a city famous for Kenrokuen Garden, samurai heritage, and cultural goods production, some of which we will have the opportunity to experience. The rest of our day is at leisure to further explore Kanazawa.

Our Accommodation – ANA Crowne Plaza Kanazawa.

DAY 11 Saturday 7 April 2018 **Kanazawa ~ (B,L)**

Today we will have a full day tour of Kanazawa.

First stop of the day will be a gold leaf museum, followed by the Wajima Lacquerware Museum. Kanazawa is famous for producing these cultural goods, along with Kutaniyaki Pottery, and silver leaf; in fact, Kanazawa produces 99% of the gold leaf used throughout Japan.

Lunch is included today, at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, before a visit to Kenrokuen Garden. Kenrokuen Garden is considered one of the 3 best landscaped gardens in Japan, and will likely be one of the most beautiful we will ever see.

After this, we will visit the Nagamachi Bukeyashiki, a preserved samurai housing district in Kanazawa; Kanazawa formerly rising to prominence under the rule of the Maeda samurai family.

Touring concludes today at our hotel late afternoon.

DAY 12 Sunday 8 April 2018 **Kyoto ~ (B,L,D)**

This morning, we will travel to Kyoto by coach, with lunch included at a local restaurant along the way.

In Kyoto, we will participate in a traditional tea ceremony, before being taken to our hotel at mid afternoon.

We will have free time at the hotel until we are taken to a traditional Japanese restaurant for a Japanese banquet dinner including an exclusive meet and greet with an apprentice geisha. We'll be returned to our hotel at around 8pm.

Our Accommodation – Rihga Royal Hotel Kyoto.

DAY 13 Monday 9 April 2018 **Kyoto ~ (B,L)**

This morning, we will be taken to Sagano Bamboo Grove, an area reminiscent of feudal era Japanese films.

A fun Kimono fitting, and a stroll through this area has been arranged for us, what a truly unique experience. Lunch is included today at a local restaurant, following Sagano.

In the afternoon we will visit various sites in Kyoto, including Heian Jingu Shrine (a famous cherry blossom viewing spot), Ryoanji Temple (World Heritage listed temple, famous for its Zen garden and weeping cherry blossom trees), and Golden Pavilion (gold leaf covered pagoda, World Heritage site, and former shogun villa converted into a Buddhist Temple).

Today's touring concludes around 5pm back at our hotel.

DAY 14 Tuesday 10 April 2018 **Kyoto ~ (B,L)**

There will be further cherry blossom viewing today at the World Heritage site of Nijo Castle (former Kyoto residence of the Tokugawa Shogunate, ruling party of Japan prior to the current royal family).

Lunch is included today at a local restaurant, with a special treat of “Green Tea Fondue” at Jouvencelle in Gion.

This afternoon, we will take part in a special Yuzen (Kimono silk) dyeing program, with further cherry blossom viewing at the World Heritage site of Kiyomizu Temple (constructed without nails, overhanging a cliff with a great view of Kyoto city).

Today's touring concludes around 5pm back at our hotel.

DAY 15 Wednesday 11 April 2018 **Hiroshima/Miyajima ~ (B,D)**

This morning our main luggage will be couriered overnight to our hotel in Osaka, while we take a detour to the island of Miyajima. We will require an overnight bag as we will travel by bullet train to Hiroshima.

There will be a bit of time for lunch (own expense today), before using local taxis to visit the Peace Memorial Museum, a rather moving affair.

We will return to Hiroshima Station, and then catch a local train and ferry across to Miyajima Island. This island is famous for its natural scenery, many wild deer and for Itsukushima Shrine. The view from Itsukushima Shrine is considered one of the best 3 in Japan and we will visit here as part of our touring this afternoon. Touring today concludes at our ryokan in Miyajima, our second for this tour.

Our Accommodation – Hotel Miyarikyu

DAY 16 Thursday 12 April 2018 **Osaka ~ (B,D)**

We will travel back toward the Osaka region by bullet train, with lunch once again at own expense today.

Our accommodation is at Hotel Nikko Osaka, located in Shinsaibashi. Shinsaibashi, along with Namba, is the most popular area in Osaka, famous for its “Eat-til-you-drop” food culture, and is arguably the best place to finish up our fantastic tour. Diversity of cuisine is abundant, as are wonderful shopping opportunities.

We'll enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant and reminisce on great times spent with new friends.

DAY 17 Friday 13 April 2018 **Osaka – Melbourne ~ (B, Meals Inflight)**

With the day free for shopping, this afternoon we'll be transferred to Kansai Airport, for our departure flight home. Sit back, relax and enjoy our flight home via Hong Kong.

DAY 18 Saturday 14 April 2018 **Arrive Melbourne**

Welcome Home!

We thank you for joining us for your latest adventure and we look forward to welcoming you back.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Please read through our full terms and conditions for this tour which are found on page 4 of this document. It is a condition that upon booking this tour you have read and fully understood this important information. Minimum numbers are required to operate this tour. Travel Insurance is mandatory.

terms and conditions

Booking Conditions

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

When booking a Sisterhood Womens Travel tour it is imperative that you are aware of all of our terms and conditions as these form part of your agreement with Sisterhood Womens Travel. **It is recommended that all travellers adopt a sense of adventure, an easy going outlook and the ability to 'expect the unexpected'.** It is the expectation that all travellers will respect fellow passengers and understand the key to an enjoyable tour is you.

ABILITY TO TRAVEL

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Sisterhood tour. As a minimum you will need to be able to walk 2km on uneven ground, carry your own luggage and walk up a few flights of stairs. We rely on the information you provide on our 'Fit to Travel' form completed as part of your booking application. You acknowledge that there are no other medical issues (both physical/mental) that SWT needs to be aware of when making your travel arrangements. SWT will not be liable for any damage, injury, death or loss of any kind arising from your failure to disclose relevant medical information. Women with disabilities are welcome on all SWT tours provided you are accompanied by an able bodied companion and do not require special assistance from SWT personnel. SWT reserves the right to refuse to carry anyone if it is felt the individual cannot cope with the requirements of the tour and who may require services and facilities that SWT cannot guarantee will be available

EXCLUSION FROM TOUR

You may be excluded from any tour at our discretion if you fail to comply with our reasonable instructions whilst on tour or if you interfere with other client's enjoyment of the tour and you will be responsible for all costs associated with your tour expelition.

VARIATION TO TOUR COMPONENT

No deduction in our tour costing will be made for leaving a tour early as this will cause a reduction in our travelling numbers and create additional costs.

ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

SWT is happy to assist with additional arrangements before and after each tour subject to an additional handling fee of \$150.

DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS

Payments required are:

International	25% deposit within 7 days
	35% deposit within 120 days
	Final Payment 90 days prior to departure
Domestic	25% deposit within 7 days
	Final Payment 75 days prior to departure

On occasion and outside of SWT's control a higher deposit or earlier payment date may be required.

LAST MINUTE BOOKINGS

Bookings made after final payment date will be subject to availability and will require full payment upon confirmation. A late fee of \$100 per person will apply.

ACCEPTED FORMS OF PAYMENT

We accept direct deposit, money order, bank cheque or Visa/Mastercard payment. For credit card payments an additional 1.5% surcharge is payable (non- refundable)

MINIMUM NUMBERS

All tours are subject to minimum numbers. If a tour falls below the minimum number required for a fully escorted tour, SWT reserves the right to offer the tour escorted by a local guide upon arrival to your destination. If SWT cancels a tour due to lack of numbers a full refund is offered or transfer to another tour. Should a tour be cancelled, SWT cannot assume any responsibility for any additional costs relating to travel arrangements made outside of SWT or travel insurance not taken out through SWT.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be made in writing to Sisterhood Womens Travel and will be subject to cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received.

CANCELLATION

Prior to Final Payment: Loss of Deposit

After Final Payment: 100% of tour cost.

Regrettably cancellation charges cannot be waived.

After Departure: No refund

Final Payment dates are determined by SWT suppliers and may vary from tour to tour.

AMENDMENTS

Once your tour is confirmed and a deposit is paid, a \$100 amendment fee will be incurred for any changes to your tour arrangements.

TOUR PRICING & ITINERARY CHANGES

SWT operates on the basis of fluid pricing. This is the practice within the Travel Industry where pricing changes due to various factors including, but not limited to changing airfares, currency fluctuations, and availability of product. We reserve the right to change our prices without notice. This can mean that different passengers on the same tour may have been charged different prices. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our tours SWT takes no responsibility for any itinerary changes that may occur prior to or during travel and any such changes will be at the discretion of the airlines and our ground operators. Changes in flights and land arrangements are beyond the control of SWT. Every effort will be made to minimise any inconvenience to SWT passengers. SWT advises making full payment for tours as early as possible to avoid any potential price increases.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that travellers are adequately insured for the full duration of their tour arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. SWT offers comprehensive travel insurance at a competitive price and will not be responsible outside their offered policy for inadequate travel insurance in the event of any insurance claims.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

When travelling alone a great way to keep your costs down and make new friends is to be prepared to share a room with another traveller. We are unable to guarantee that your room mate will be of similar age group but it is an enjoyable way to travel and could mean the start of a great friendship. Of course if you prefer a room to yourself the single supplement will apply. If we are successful in matching you with a fellow traveller we give you the opportunity prior to departure to make contact. SWT takes no responsibility for any mismatch of passengers and will not be liable for any additional charges incurred for changing room configuration whilst on tour.

HEALTH & IMMIGRATION

The traveller is responsible for all visa, passport, immigration, quarantine, customs, health and other requirements of the countries visited or transited. If travelling on an Australian passport you will need at least 6 months validity on your passport taken from the date of re-entry into Australia. If you are travelling under any other passport please advise at the time of booking. Sisterhood Womens Travel will not be held responsible for any incorrect re-entry visas for non- australian passport holders. SWT is happy to offer assistance with visas (additional charges may apply). Please note that passport and visa requirements are the responsibility of you the traveller and SWT takes no responsibility for failure to comply with the provided advice.

NAMES AS PER PASSPORTS

When booking on any tour, it is imperative that you provide SWT with your full correct name as per your passport and a copy of your passport (for international tours) SWT will not be held liable for any or expense incurred for incorrect names.

CONSULAR ADVICE

Official travel advice issued by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is available by contacting 1300 444135 or visiting their website www.dfat.gov.au. We recommend that you review this

information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

These conditions represent the entire agreement between the client and Sisterhood Womens Travel. SWT will be responsible to the client for supplying the services and accommodation as described in their itineraries, except where such service cannot be supplied or the itinerary used is changed due to delays or other cause of whatever kind or nature beyond the control of SWT. In such circumstances we will do our best to supply comparable services, accommodations and itineraries, and there shall be no refund in this situation. SWT acts only as agent for the client and upon the express condition that SWT will not be held liable or responsible for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind, which may be occasioned by reason or any act or omission of any third party (including without limitation, any act, inaction or breach of contract of any third party, which is to or does supply any goods or services for SWT tours). Without limiting the foregoing, SWT does not own or operate any third party suppliers of services such as hotels, restaurants, transportation companies, sightseeing companies or local tour operators and is not responsible for any injury, death or expense due to overbooking accommodation, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, Government, acts of terrorism, criminal activity, war, quarantine, force majeure events or any other cause beyond its control. All such risk, loss and expense must be borne by the client. Any personal expenses incurred by a client as a result of any delay, alteration or curtailment of any tour, whether caused by mechanical defect, strikes or any other cause are the responsibility of the client (travel insurance is mandatory on all SWT tours). SWT is unable to guarantee exact arrival and departure times, and is not liable for any failure to make connections with any other services, or guarantee the operation of any particular service. In the case of breakdown or other unforeseen circumstances, the operator reserves the right to substitute vehicles other than specified to ensure the operation of a tour. SWT reserves the right to cancel any ticket or booking, or to refuse to carry client where payment has not been received by SWT.

Updated 1 June 2015

Registered Office:

Level 1, 361 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

1300 885 255

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TRAVELLERS
CHOICE

WE'RE
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