

SPRING FESTIVALS OF JAPAN

ROSS TOURS
travel with friends



20 APRIL - 3 MAY

2026

Japan celebrates Golden Week with festivals of azalea, peony and wisteria. Our journey begins in Nikko and travels across three islands: Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. Tunnels of wisteria are a highlight. Visit Tokyo, Matsue, Okayama and Takamatsu.

Graham Ross



Shiofune Kannon Temple



Yushien Garden



Hitachi Park

DAY 1 | MON 20 APR

Home to Tokyo

Meet your Tour Leader Graham Ross at Sydney International Airport. Depart on our Qantas daytime flight to Tokyo.

Hotel Villa Fontaine Grand Haneda Airport

DAY 2 | TUE 21 APR (B/L/D)

Ashikaga Flower Park

To Ashikaga Flower Park this morning. The Wisteria Festival will be in full swing with 350 in flower including The Great Wisteria, now 150 years old and spreading 1,000 sqm. Lunch included at the Kanaya Cottage. Check in to the classic and historic Nikko Kanaya Hotel, rich in tradition, with dinner included tonight.

Kanaya Hotel, Nikko

DAY 3 | WED 22 APR (B/D)

Hitachi Seaside Park

Another splendid flower festival today, fields of 'Baby Blue Eyes' nemophila & tulips at Hitachi Seaside Park, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Back to the Kanaya with dinner included this evening.

Kanaya Hotel, Nikko

DAY 4 | THU 23 APR (B/D)

Nikko to Tokyo

The famous red lacquered Sacred Bridge over the Daiya River is first this morning, rebuilt in its current form in 1636, last restored in 2005. Climb the steps to Toshogu Shrine, resting place of the Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first shogun of the Edo period. Walk the ancient avenue of sacred Japanese Cedar (cryptomeria) that leads to the shrine.

New Otani, Tokyo

DAY 5 | FRI 24 APR (B)

Tokyo

Festival of Azaleas today at Shiofune Kannon Temple. The garden surrounds an ancient Buddhist temple, known as the 'Temple of Flowers'. Walk up through

colourful azaleas to the giant statue of Buddha, with panoramic view. Afternoon free in Tokyo. Evening stroll around Kameido Shrine to see old wisteria.

New Otani, Tokyo

DAY 6 | SAT 25 APR (B)

Nezu Shrine

Incandescent colour today at Nezu Shrine, one of the ten shrines of the Meiji Era, a cultural treasure that dates back 1,900 years. Azaleas here are legendary. Peony breeding is next level in the Toshogu Peony Garden in Ueno Park. See 500 plants in the full range of glorious shape, colour and form including Itoh peonies, bred by Toichi Itoh.

New Otani, Tokyo

DAY 7 | SUN 26 APR (B)

Tokyo to Okayama

Take the morning train to Okayama to visit Koraku-en Garden, one of the Three Master Gardens of Japan, now 300 years old. This fine example of a Japanese stroll garden from the Edo Period, was built for the local feudal lord as a place to entertain his family and guests.

Hotel Granvia, Okayama

DAY 8 | MON 27 APR (B)

Ritsurin Garden

Our coach takes us across the Great Seto Bridge to the island of Shikoku to the sublime Ritsurin Garden in Takamatsu, another famous Master Garden. Built by feudal lords during the early Edo Period, it's considered to be one of the finest gardens in Japan with its iconic Crescent Moon Bridge. Return to Okayama.

Hotel Granvia, Okayama

DAY 9 | TUE 28 APR (B/D)

Kurashiki

To the picturesque old town of Kurashiki with its preserved canal precinct that dates to the Edo Period when the city served as

a rice distribution centre. Storehouses now house traditional denim and ceramics. Afternoon train to Kokura.

RIHGA Royal Hotel Kokura

DAY 10 | WED 29 APR (B/L/D)

Kawachi Fujien

Visit to Kawachi Fujien Wisteria Garden, with twenty species of wisteria in two long tunnels. Lunch included today. Afternoon train to Matsue. Stay two nights at a traditional ryokan hotel. Dinner included tonight.

Hotel Gyokusen, Matsue

DAY 11 | THU 30 APR (B/D)

Yushien Garden

Peony heaven today at Yushien Garden, a famous collection on Daikonsima Island, in the middle of Lake Nakaumi. Adachi Museum of Art was founded by Adachi Zenko in 1970, combining his passions for Japanese art and garden design. His gardens are said to be a "living Japanese painting." Dinner included tonight.

Hotel Gyokusen, Matsue

DAY 12 | FRI 1 MAY (B/D)

Matsue to Okayama

A taste of old Japan at Matsue, famous for its feudal castle, one of the few remaining medieval castles built of wood. Visit a Samurai home and local museum. A train ride to Okayama this afternoon. Farewell Dinner at our hotel tonight.

Hotel Granvia, Okayama

DAY 13 | SAT 2 MAY (B)

Okayama to Home

Free morning to explore Okayama. Shop for traditional Japanese denim and 'Bizen' ceramics. Afternoon transfer to Okayama Airport for homeward flights.

DAY 14 | SUN 3 MAY

Arrive Home

Details

- ✓ Tour escorted by Graham Ross
- ✓ Air-conditioned motorcoach
- ✓ Deluxe accommodation - 12 nights
- ✓ Breakfast daily (B), 2 Lunches (L) and 7 Dinners (D)
- ✓ Entrance fees to all gardens & sightseeing including Ashikaga Flower Park, Hitachi Seaside Park, Rinnoji Temple, Nezu Shrine, Ueno Toshogu Peony Garden, Shiofune Kannon Temple, Kameido Tenjin Shrine, Yushien, Adachi Museum of Art, Korakuen, Kawachi Fujien Wisteria Garden, Ritsurin Park, Kanaya History House, Nikko Toshogu Shrine, Matsue Castle, Himeji Castle.

Price

- ✓ Twin Share land only \$15,995 pp
- ✓ Twin Share inc airfare \$17,495 pp
- ✓ Single Supplement \$2,795
- ✓ All prices in Australian dollars. Prices based on minimum 15 passengers with departure from Sydney.
- ✓ Refer to Ross Tours standard terms and conditions.

Discounts

- ✓ Earlybird \$250 Pay by 5/12/25
- ✓ Previous Traveller \$100
- ✓ Garden Clinic Member \$50



Linked Tours

Japan Cherry Blossom: 27 Mar - 10 Apr 2026

Tour leader



Graham Ross

Graham is a teacher and broadcaster with a passion for plants, horticulture, cultural landscape and history. He has been leading tours around Australia, and in many countries abroad, for forty five years. His stories and anecdotes are legendary.



To book online, visit rosstours.com/japan-spring-festivals



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