## TOHOKU SPECTACULAR SAKURA TOUR 2024 FULL ITINERARY



= well-known spot for cherry blossoms

DAY 1 APR 06 Meet group members at HNL Relax at HIS-exclusive LeaLea Lounge Depart from HNL on Japan Airlines Nonstop flight to Haneda Airport (Tokyo)

DAY 1 APR 07 Arrive at Haneda Airport
Meet local guide and bus driver
Short drive to Shinjuku area (about 30 minutes)
Group welcome dinner, rest at hotel (**Keio Plaza Tokyo** or similar)

DAY 2 APR 08 Breakfast at hotel Head out to Gunma Prefecture Lunch at local restaurant

Takumi no Sato traditional crafts village and "Shippo Yaki" accessory-making experience 🌟

Strawberry picking at Mogitore Fruit Land farm

Arrive at hotel, deluxe buffet dinner at hotel (Sarugakyo Sennotani or similar), enjoy onsen

DAY 3 APR 09 Breakfast at hotel

Kiyotsukyo "Light Cave" artistic installation

Michi no Eki shopping and lunch at local restaurant

Head into Niigata City, senbei-making hands-on experience

Furumachi Geigi show - special private music & dance geisha performance

\*Niigata has its own geisha traditions separate from those of Kyoto/Tokyo. A rare opportunity!

Move to local restaurant for dinner

Check in to hotel (ANA Crowne Plaza Niigata or similar)

DAY 4 APR 10 Breakfast at hotel

Head to Fukushima Prefecture

Sansai wild vegetable harvesting experience and traditional "irori" charcoal grilling lunch

Move to Tsuruga-jo Castle in Aizu Wakamatsu

Hanami sakura viewing & picnic experience

Sake brewery tour & tasting at Suehiro Sake

Continue to Yamagata Prefecture & Tendo Onsen

Arrive at hotel (Azumaso or similar), deluxe kaiseki dinner, enjoy onsen

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DAY 5 APR 11	Breakfast at hotel Sightseeing around Ginzan Onsen, a famous traditional hot springs village Move to Hiraizumi, ancient capital of the Tohoku region, and shopping at Hiraizumi Rest House Chusonji Temple, founded in 850, renowned for the gold-covered Konjikido hall Head to Geibikei, river gorge cruise on traditional wooden boats poled by a riverboat driver Drive to Hanamaki Onsen Check in to hotel ( <b>Hanamaki Onsen hotel</b> or similar), deluxe buffet dinner, enjoy onsen
DAY 6 APR 12	Breakfast at hotel Kamabuchi Waterfall sightseeing Head to Kitakami City, enjoy Kitakami "Sakura Street" & Tenshochi Festival ** Famous Iwate dish "Wanko Soba" lunch experience at local restaurant Head down toward Sendai, Kesennuma Tsunami Memorial & seafood market Arrive in Sendai, dinner at local restaurant Check in to hotel ( <b>Hotel Monterey Sendai</b> or similar)
DAY 7 APR 13	Breakfast at hotel Matsushima Bay boat cruise, one of Japan's "Top 3 Scenic Views" Yukata (Japanese traditional clothing) rental experience, strolling around Japanese garden Lunch at local restaurant Zuihoden Mausoleum, resting place of Date Masamune, one of the Edo period's most powerful lords Return to hotel (Hotel Monterey Sendai), free evening to have dinner around Sendai Station *Recommended: try the local specialty of "gyūtan", thinly sliced and grilled beef tongue
DAY 8 APR 14	Breakfast at hotel Head to outskirts of Sendai, Nikka Whisky Sendai distillery tour and tasting Return to Sendai city center Lunch at local restaurant Move to Sendai Station, board shinkansen bullet train for Tokyo (ride time about 1 hr 30 min) Arrive at Tokyo Station, deluxe farewell dinner in Tokyo Check in to hotel ( <b>Keio Plaza Tokyo</b> or similar)
DAY 9 APR 15	Breakfast at hotel Free day to explore Tokyo! Ask us for suggestions! *No bus or guide on this day <b>Keio Plaza Tokyo</b> or similar
DAY 10	Breakfast at hotel Free morning to explore Tokyo! Ask us for suggestions!

Meet bus in afternoon, transfer to Haneda Airport

Shopping at airport, then depart for HNL on Japan Airlines nonstop flight

**APR 16**