

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

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JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOMS TOUR

15 Day Conducted Tour
for **\$6,785** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes & levies

This is amazing value for an expensive destination such as Japan, as the price covers all of the following:

- Air fares with Cathay Pacific Airways from Sydney and Melbourne into Osaka and out of Tokyo.
- A 14 day tour of Japan by coach and train.
- Accommodation in mainly three to four star hotels with private facilities.
- Many meals, as stated in the itinerary.
- All transfers and transport and entrance fees to many attractions.
- A Maiko Dance Performance and a Japanese Tea Ceremony.
- Prepaid gratuities to the main tour guide and drivers.
- Services of a local tour guide and if there are 15 or more participants, an Australian tour escort.



The tour will visit Japan in Spring, when the cherry blossoms should be in full bloom, but this cannot be guaranteed. This is an opportunity to see this beautiful country when it is at its best.

If you don't have anyone to share with but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try to assign you with another traveller, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra cost of \$1,199.



Tour departs Australia on the 22nd March and returns 5th April 2019

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Japan Cherry Blossoms Tour

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

22.03.19 Australia - Hong Kong - Osaka, Japan

Depart Sydney at 8.40am on CX 110, arriving in Hong Kong at 3.05pm.
Depart Melbourne at 8.50am on CX 134, arriving in Hong Kong at 3.15pm.
All passengers depart Hong Kong at 4.35pm on CX 502, arriving in Osaka at 9.05pm.

Upon arrival in Osaka we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Accommodation: Star Gate Hotel or similar

23.03.19 Osaka – Kobe - Hiroshima

(B/L)

This morning we drive to Kobe and visit the Old Sake Breweries Museum. Afterwards we have lunch at Steakland Restaurant and then transfer to the train station to take the Bullet Train to Hiroshima, where we have a three night stay.
Note: Please prepare an overnight bag for one night as your large luggage will be transferred separately by coach to Hiroshima (there is limited luggage space available on the bullet train).

Accommodation: Hiroshima Grand Prince Hotel or similar

24.03.19 Hiroshima - Miyajima - Hiroshima

(B/D)

After breakfast we will leave the hotel and drive to Miyajima Island and visit the Itsukushima Shrine. Miyajima Island is the popular name of Itsuku-shima Island situated in Miyajima Town southwest of Hiroshima. It is a scenic sight where the mountains, sea and red shrine buildings blend in harmony, and the entire island is designated as a historic site. It is one of the three most beautiful sites in Japan, along with Matsushima in Miyagi and Amanohashidate in Kyoto.

Lunch is at your own expense on Miyajima.

In the afternoon we return to Hiroshima and visit the Peace Memorial Park, including the Atomic Bomb Dome. The Genbaku Dome (The Atomic Bomb Dome) is the symbol of Hiroshima, the city that advocates peace in the world. It is located in Hiroshima and faces Hiroshima Bay in the Seto Island Sea. It was originally the Hiroshima Industrial Promotion Hall built in 1915. While all structures vanished in the atomic bomb explosion, only this building miraculously remained standing. It was 6th August 1945 when the first atomic bomb in history was dropped on Hiroshima. We also visit the Peace Memorial Museum.

Dinner this evening is included.

Accommodation: Hiroshima Grand Prince Hotel or similar

25.03.19 Hiroshima - Iwakuni City - Hiroshima

(B/D)

After breakfast we proceed to Iwakuni City, which was an unimportant village that was deep in the Mori family's vast domain until they lost all but Yamaguchi Prefecture after the battle of Sekigahara in 1600. Hiroie Kikkawa, a relative of the Mori family, was given the responsibility of transforming a backwater into a defensible, major outpost for his clan. Today, the samurai quarter that grew up around Iwakuni Castle and Kintai Bridge (Kintaikyō) is a major attraction in the city. We visit both the castle and the bridge. Please note that the displays within the castle are written in Japanese, with no English translation.

Afterwards we return to the hotel. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Hiroshima Grand Prince Hotel or similar

26.03.19 Hiroshima - Kurashiki - Okayama - Osaka

(B/L)

After breakfast we visit the Kurashiki Bikan District, the former Kurashiki Town Office and the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter. Lunch today is at Ivy Garden. After lunch we travel to Okayama and visit the Korakuen Garden. We then travel to Osaka and check into our hotel for a two night stay.

Accommodation: Hotel Agora Osaka-Moriguchi or similar

27.03.19 Osaka - Nara - Osaka

(B/L)

This morning we depart on a sightseeing tour of Nara. We will visit Todaiji Temple, the Daibutsuden (Great Buddha Hall) which is one of the world's largest wooden buildings and one of the best known temples in Japan. It enshrines a gigantic bronze statue of Buddha. Next we visit Nara Park, where deer roam freely, lending a pastoral atmosphere to the park. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Afterwards we visit Osaka Castle, which is one of the most famous castles in Japan. We then return to our hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Agora Osaka-Moriguchi or similar

28.03.19 Osaka - Kyoto

(B/D)

Today we depart for Kyoto. Upon arrival we visit Arashiyama district including Togetsu Bridge. Next we visit the celebrated Golden Pavilion (Kinkakuji). This is followed by a Kimono fashion show. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Karasuma Kyoto Hotel or similar

29.03.19 Kyoto

(B/D)

We have a late start this morning before learning about making sushi. You will have a hands-on opportunity to make your own sushi rolls. This followed by a visit to Heian Jingu Shrine, which is the home of perhaps the world's most authentic and exquisite Japanese garden. We then enjoy a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony. This evening we have an included dinner while we see a Maiko dance performance.

Accommodation: Karasuma Kyoto Hotel or similar

30.03.19 Kyoto - Toyohashi

(B/D)

After breakfast we visit the Kiyomizudera Temple, which is an independent Buddhist temple in eastern Kyoto. The temple is part of the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is followed by a visit to the Philosophers Walk. Then we travel to Toyohashi by coach and check into the hotel. This evening we enjoy an included dinner.

Accommodation: Toyohashi Loisir Hotel or similar

31.03.19 Toyohashi - Lake Hamanako - Mt. Fuji area

(B/D)

Today we visit Lake Hamanako and then continue on to Mt. Fuji.

We climb up to the 5th station by coach, about 2300 metres above sea level to enjoy the view. Please note that the climb to the 5th station is subject to weather and operational conditions. We also see the Visitor Centre. Afterwards we visit the Peace Park and then travel to our hotel.

Dinner this evening is included.
Accommodation: Isawa Fuji Hotel or similar

01.04.19 Mt. Fuji area - Hakone - Tokyo

(B/L) After breakfast we enjoy a tour of Hakone, including a short cruise on Lake Ashinoko. We then visit Hakone Ropeway and the Owakudani Valley. Lunch is at a local restaurant, before travelling to the nation's capital for a three night stay.
Accommodation: Tobu Levant Hotel or similar

02.04.19 Tokyo

(B) Today we depart on a sightseeing tour of Tokyo.
We visit Asakusa Kannon Temple and Nakamise shopping street. Legend has it that fishermen brothers discovered an image of Kan'on (the Goddess of Mercy) in the Sumida River around 1,370 years ago and they were inspired to enshrine it. Its symbol is a large red paper lantern that bears the word 'Kaminari-mon' (thunder gate). This is followed by a visit to the Observatory of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government for a panoramic view of the city.
We then have some time for lunch, at your own expense.
After lunch we visit Edo Museum, followed by some free time for shopping in the Ginza shopping area.
Accommodation: Tobu Levant Hotel or similar

03.04.19 Tokyo

(B/L/D) This morning after breakfast we visit Happo-en Garden. Happo-en means "beautiful from every angle". When visiting the Happo-en Garden you will see that the name doesn't even begin to describe this Japanese garden. We take a stroll through tree lined paths of century old bonsai, cherry and maple trees. Take in the lush gardens and budding flowers surrounding a tranquil pond. We enjoy an included lunch inside the gardens. Afterwards we visit Odaiba, which is a large artificial island in Tokyo Bay across the Rainbow Bridge from central Tokyo. It was initially built for defensive purposes in the 1850's and dramatically expanded during the late 20th century as a seaport district. It has now been developed into a major commercial, residential and leisure area. Our next visit is to the Toyota Mega Web.
This evening we have an included farewell dinner in Shinjuku at a Shabu Shabu (hot pot) restaurant and see the pretty neon lights of the area.
Afterwards we are returned to the hotel.
Accommodation: Tobu Levant Hotel or similar

04.04.19 Tokyo – Hong Kong - Sydney

(B) This morning is at leisure in Tokyo. You will have the use of your hotel rooms until the standard check out time. After this you can store your luggage at the hotel until our afternoon transfer to the airport for our flights home.
Depart Tokyo (Narita) Airport at 6.30pm on CX 505, arriving in Hong Kong at 10.25pm.
Sydney passengers depart Hong Kong at 11.55pm on CX 101, arriving in Sydney at 11.50am the next day (05.04.19).

05.04.19 Hong Kong – Melbourne

Melbourne passengers depart Hong Kong at 00.10am on CX 105, arriving in

Melbourne at 12.10pm.

Note: For passengers in single accommodation, Japan often has smaller rooms dedicated for single passengers. These can potentially be considerably smaller than what you might be accustomed to, however this is the norm for Japan, and the price you have paid for the single room supplement reflects these dedicated single rooms. The single room supplement will provide you with privacy, but not necessarily the same sized rooms as other twin share passengers.



Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

To ensure that you select the right tour for you, Macleay Valley Travel has provided a clear set of tour difficulty and fitness recommendations for our tours. The ratings, from 1, being the easiest, to 5 the most strenuous, will give you a good idea of what is reasonably required for you to be able to participate on each tour. Most tours require a moderate to good level of fitness. For your enjoyment of the tour, and also the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the suggested difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

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Tour Difficulty Level 3

This tour rating typically involves a good level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, boarding trains quickly, walking distances of up to 500 metres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as early departures.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Japan Cherry Blossoms Tour

Deposits and Payments: A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable 8 weeks prior to departure.

Refunds and Cancellations: Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Airline Tickets - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

Insurance: Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bare no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports: All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. No visas are required for Australian passport holders.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes: Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost: All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. Also travel insurance. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa/MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2% surcharge for American Express.

Cherry Blossoms: The tour dates have been selected to time with the proposed blooming period of the cherry blossoms, however the specific blooming dates are subject to weather conditions and seasonal variations. As such we cannot guarantee that you will see cherry blossoms in bloom, although it is very likely.

Booking through other Agents: As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Twin Share Bookings – If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Single Accommodation - For passengers in single accommodation, Japan often has smaller rooms dedicated for single passengers. This can potentially be considerably smaller than what you might be accustomed to, however this is the norm for Japan, and the price you have paid for the single room supplement reflects these dedicated single rooms. The single room supplement will provide you with privacy, but not necessarily the same sized rooms as other twin share passengers

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$105 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Health and Fitness: Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Passport Nationality _____ Preferred Name: _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE

Special Dietary Requests – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

Any existing medical conditions – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person and the health & fitness form.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.

HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

- 1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details and severity: _____
- 2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided? Yes / No
- 3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain? Yes / No
If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____
- 4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
- 5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
- 6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
- 7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
- 8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____
- 9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No
- 10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No
If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No
- 11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: _____

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

DISCLAIMER

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____
- 4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
- 5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____