



## **SAKURA: Japan in Springtime**

*A Spring 2008 Tour Sponsored by The Japan Society of Boston, Featuring  
Cherry Blossoms, Contemporary & Classic Japanese Arts, Crafts, and Creativity  
March 23 ~ April 9, 2008*

*Tour Leader: Peter Grilli*

*Shikishima no Yamato-gokoro wo  
Hito-towaba, Asahi ni niou  
Yamazakura bana.*

If one should ask you about the heart of a true Japanese,  
Point to the wild cherry flower, glowing in the sun.  
-- Motoori Norinaga (1730-1801)

In this brief poem, Japan's great 18<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher poet Norinaga hints at the special role of the cherry blossom or *sakura* in Japanese life. Sakura in Japan are not merely beautiful flowers: they are a metaphor for life. Radiant in their beauty - especially during the few weeks of early spring when the entire nation seems to float in clouds of pink - the cherry blossoms fade quickly and die fluttering to the earth under the slightest rain or wind. It's no wonder that feudal samurai and Zen monks found life itself reflected in the short but glorious flowering of the cherries.

### **Springtime Travel in Japan**

**Is to Experience the Country at its Most Magical Moment!**



## THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON, INC.

FOUNDED 1904 One Milk Street ☐ Boston, MA 02109 ☐ 617/451-0726 ☐ 617/451-1191

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### SAKURA TOUR: JAPAN IN SPRINGTIME

#### Japan Society Tour, 2008

*Featuring Cherry Blossoms, Contemporary & Classic Japanese Arts, Culture, Crafts, and Creativity*

March 23 - April 9, 2008

**Tour Leader: Peter Grilli, President of Japan Society of Boston**

3/23	Sun	Depart Boston or other U.S. gateway city
3/24	Mon.	Arrive Tokyo
3/25	Tues.	Tokyo
3/26	Wed.	Tokyo
3/27	Thurs.	Kamakura (Tokyo)
3/28	Fri.	Kyoto
3/29	Sat.	Kyoto
3/30	Sun.	Kyoto
3/31	Mon.	Naoshima Island
4/1	Tues.	Naoshima Island
4/2	Wed.	Takamatsu/Kurashiki
4/3	Thurs.	Okayama/Bizen area
4/4	Fri.	Himeji to Osaka
4/5	Sat.	Osaka
4/6	Sun.	Kanazawa & Yamashiro Hotspring
4/7	Mon.	Noto Peninsula, Wajima & Wakura Hotspring
4/8	Tues.	<i>(fly Noto to Tokyo)</i> , Tokyo
4/9	Wed.	Depart Tokyo to Boston
4/9	Wed.	Arrive Boston or other U.S. point of origin

**Total trip: 16 nights in Japan**

**Alternate A: 8 nights: Only Tokyo & Kyoto**

**Alternate B: 10 nights: Tokyo, Kyoto, Naoshima Art Island & Takamatsu**

**Tour Cost:**

<b>Full tour (16 nights)</b>	<b>\$13,600 + \$1000 contribution to JSB</b>
<b>Alternate A (8 nights)</b>	<b>\$ 8,500 + \$1000 contribution to JSB</b>
<b>Alternate B (10 nights)</b>	<b>\$10,000 + \$1000 contribution to JSB</b>

*Above rates are per person (double occupancy of hotel rooms). Surcharges will apply to single rooms & to accommodations at the Tawaraya Inn in Kyoto. All breakfasts and most other meals are included. International air travel is not included.*

## **SAKURA: Springtime in Japan**

### **Tour Schedule & Overview**

**Tour Dates: March 23 - April 9, 2008**

**The full Japan Society Spring Tour of Japan in 2008 is seventeen days (sixteen nights in Japan). For travellers who wish to make a shorter tour, two alternatives are possible:**

**a) Full Tour (16 nights) – March 23~April 9:**

Includes: Tokyo, Kyoto, Naoshima Art Island, Takamatsu (the Isamu Noguchi Studio & Museum and Shikoku-Mura Open-air Museum, Okayama and the Bizen ceramics district, Osaka, Kanazawa and the hot springs and craft villages of the Noto Peninsula.

**b) 9-Day Tour (8 nights) – March 23~April 1:**

Includes only Tokyo & Kyoto

**c) 11-Day Tour (10 nights) – March 23~April 3:**

Includes Tokyo, Kyoto, Naoshima Island & Takamatsu (Noguchi Museum)

Costs for the tour will be pro-rated according to the number of nights spent in Japan. The cost of the full tour (16 nights) is \$13,600 (plus a contribution of \$1000 to The Japan Society of Boston). The cost of the shortest tour (8 nights) is \$8,500 (plus a contribution of \$1000 to The Japan Society of Boston). The cost of the medium-length tour (10 nights) is \$10,000 (plus a \$1000 contribution to the Japan Society of Boston).

*The above rates are per person (double occupancy of hotel rooms). Surcharges will apply to single rooms & to accommodations at Tawaraya Inn in Kyoto. All breakfasts and most other meals are included. International air travel is not included.*

The itinerary of the tour includes Tokyo, Kamakura, Kyoto, the art island of Naoshima, Takamatsu, Okayama and the Bizen ceramic district, Osaka, Kanazawa, and the craft villages and hot springs of the Noto Peninsula.

The Japan Society tour will include no more than 20 members; minimum number of members needed for travel is 15 people.

**Tour registration deadline, with deposit (50% of total tour cost):**      **January 20, 2008**  
**Final confirmation, with payment of remaining 50% of tour cost:**      **February 20, 2008**

Persons interested in this tour should contact Peter Grilli at The Japan Society of Boston as soon as possible: 1 Milk Street, Boston, MA 02109.

Tel: 617-451-0726.

E-mail: [grilli@us-japan.org](mailto:grilli@us-japan.org)



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#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

The 2008 Spring Tour in Japan will be focused mainly on Japanese arts and culture, and will visit the following locations: Tokyo, Kyoto, Naoshima Art Island, Takamatsu (the Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum & Shikoku-Mura), the ancient ceramic area of Bizen, Kurashiki, Osaka, Kanazawa, Yamashiro-onsen, and the craft villages and hotspots of Noto Peninsula. All accommodations will be in first-class hotels or the finest *ryokan* inns.

Japan Society trips are distinctive for their encounters with Japanese people. The Society's broad range of friendships with individuals of all walks of life and its relationships with many major Japanese institutions permit access to people and places never available to ordinary tourists. Participants in Japan Society tours enjoy meetings with well-known artists and craftsmen in their studios; with leaders of Japanese industry, commerce and politics; with museum directors and curators; with world renowned architects in buildings of their own design; with actors and performers backstage in their dressing rooms; and with ordinary Japanese families in their homes.

A special feature of this tour will be the opening game of the American League 2008 baseball season, with the world-champion Boston Red Sox playing the Oakland Athletics in the great Tokyo Dome. Other highlights include visits to Imperial gardens in Kyoto, superb Japanese cuisine, and two nights at the beautiful art island of Naoshima in the Inland Sea.

This tour will be led by Peter Grilli, President of the Japan Society of Boston and a well-known specialist in the history and culture of Japan. Raised in Tokyo, he speaks

Japanese well and his career has been devoted to cultural interactions between Japan and the U.S. Over the last 25 years, Mr. Grilli has led many successful tours to Japan.

*A unique opportunity to experience Japan in depth and at its most beautiful season!*