Best Places to visit in Japan in Spring

https://www.japan.travel/en/uk/

META - The Wonderful Country of Japan Has Many Special Places to Visit During Spring.

Japan is a unique and enchanting East Asian country made up of over 14,000 distinct islands. It is located in the northwest Pacific Ocean, with the Sea of Japan to the west. It has both snowy mountain ranges and temperate zones, together with large modern cities like Tokyo and Osaka and traditional villages.

Japan is regarded as a cultural leader in the world, and its culture is recognised throughout the world. Japanese cultural aspects include its art, food, music, and popular culture features. Japan also has a thriving video game industry. To visit Japan in spring is essential for this popular tourist destination for millions of visitors each year who want to view its magnificent sights.

1. Cherry Blossom in Kawazu.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/blooming-sakura-trees-in-wonderful-park-4107432/

(sakura trees blossoming in a wonderful park)

Japan IS cherry blossoms. Every year for two weeks around the beginning of March, millions of cherry trees bloom and fill the country with the beautiful sight and smell of the evocative cherry blossom. In spring in Japan, the whole country seems to come alive with the beautiful blooms

The flowers feature big petals that range in color from dark pink to dusty pink and everything in between. The Kawazu Cherry Blossom Festival is held along the Kawazu River in early March each year, and attracts millions of tourists. With nearly a thousand cherry trees blooming along the river, the popular event captivates tourists.

- The Festival is free to enter.
- The area is best accessed via train from Miurakaigan Station. Travel time is about 1.5 hours and costs around \$9

Hiroshima City.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/hiroshima-peace-memorial-hiroshima-japan-14331552/

The peace memorial in Hiroshima.

The site of the first nuclear bomb, Hiroshima is a thoughtful and profound city. It is also a rebuilt modern area that embraces Japanese lifestyles. It is now a large urban center with a population of more than a million people and worth a visit in Japan in spring.

Hiroshimama is also famous for the impressive <u>Miyajima</u> shrine with its beautiful wooden structures. The shrine is famous for the enormous torii gate, which at high tide appears to float on the sea. The Miyajima shrine is ranked as one of Japan's three best all-time views and one of the most photographed places in the country.

- Private tours of Miyajima from \$150 per person.
- Stay overnight in a local Ryokan for around \$20 per person.

3. Fuji Shibazakura Festival near Mount Fuji

https://www.pexels.com/photo/mt-fuji-248195/

(mount fuji seen through tree branches)

Mount Fuji is an epic and absolute must see when on a visit in Japan in spring, but the iconic sight is made all the more special by the yearly <u>Shibazakura</u> festival. This beautiful plant is a species of pink flowering plant that grows on the ground and resembles a carpet of cherry blossom because of its texture and color.

The festival is held yearly in the spring and attracts thousands of foreign tourists and Japanese visitors from around the country, and features food stands and many traditional forms of entertainment. Furthermore, the festival is held in view of the spectacular Mount Fuji, with its snow capped peak.

- There is an \$8 entry fee per person to the festival.
- Car parking is a flat charge of \$4 per car.

4. Cycling the Shimanami Kaido route.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/man-in-black-jacket-riding-a-bike-8193038/

(A man in a black jacket cycling)

For the fitter and more adventurous visitor, spring in Japan is ideal for taking a cycle tour along the Shimanami Kaido cycle route.

The <u>Shimanami Kaido</u> connects the southern island of Shikoku to the main island of Honshu over a secure and well-traveled 60 km long road. The path passes through scenic landscape and includes crossing a bridge that connects to many others across the southern part of the territory.

- Cycles can be hired for as little as \$14 per day, with a \$10 deposit.
- Tandems and electric -assist bikes are available to hire at \$20 and \$18 per day respectively.

5. Visit Himeji Castle.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/photo-of-himeji-castle-behind-white-cherry-blossoms-1654748/

(Himeji castle seen with white cherry blossoms)

Sited in Hyogo Prefecture, <u>Himeji Castle</u> is often referred to as the Machu Picchu of Japan, with its impressive exterior, it's an essential visit in the <u>Japan map</u>. At dawn, the castle is often seen to be floating in the clouds, adding to its fairy-tale splendor. This is one of the most photographed sights in Japan and an absolute must see.

With its base clothed in stunning white cherry blossom, spring is the best time to visit japan for the castle view. The visitor can choose to either tour the castle itself along with the ground, or just opt for a grounds-only ticket.

- Castle only ticket is \$7 per person and \$8 for both castle and garden per person.
- The castle is open between 9:00am and 5:00pm everyday except December 29th and 30th.

TIP. The castle is best visited by a ten minute bus ride from Himeji train station. The same route can be walked in about 20 minutes.

6. Ueno Park in Tokyo

https://www.pexels.com/photo/cherry-blossoms-2187425/

(cherry blossoms in Ueno Park Tokyo)

This beautiful and intriguing <u>park</u> is situated right inside the city of Tokyo, and has plenty of activities to do as well as things to see in <u>cities in Japan</u>. Tokyo is one of the most impressive

cities in Japan and well worth visiting. At the same time, the traveler should take in Ueno Park, which lies almost centrally in the city.

While it has plenty of cherry blossom to see in the spring, it also has several shrines, temples, a boating lake and a zoological garden to see. It is worth taking a whole day to explore the park and all that it has to offer.

- The park is free to enter, but the zoo costs \$4 for adults and \$3 per under 18 to enter.
- Row boats cost \$4 per hour to hire while pedal boats are \$4 for 30 minutes to hire.

7. Mount Fuji

https://www.pexels.com/photo/mt-fuji-3408353/

(mount fuji from a nearby viewpoint)

If traveling to the Fuji Shibazakura Festival, then it is essential to travel a little further and visit Mount Fuji. Definitely a best place to visit in Japan, Mount Fuji is evocative and iconic. Standing nearly 4,000 meters, the peak can be enjoyed from many tourist spots around its base, and even scaled with professional guides between 1 July and 14 September each year.

Visit in Japan in spring means that the peak is still in its mantle of iconic snow. There is a regular shuttle bus that ascends to around halfway up the peak for visitors to view the area.

- Bus journey is 2.5 hours long and costs around \$18 per person.
- Guided climbs start at around \$225 per person.

TIP - At nearly 4,000 meters, climbers should be aware that oxygen is severely depleted at the summit, and should be sure of their fitness to climb.

8. Visit Shirakawa-go.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/houses-covered-with-heavy-snow-in-the-valley-11997087/

(village houses covered in thick snow)

Sited to the East of Tokyo, and regarded as a best place to visit in Japan, Shirakawa-go is a village that changes hugely depending upon which time of the year it's visited. In winter the village is covered in thick snow but as this thaws in the spring the village first becomes clothed in cherry blossom, and then becomes a beautiful green oasis as the blossom falls.

The beautiful natural mountain outlook together with the traditional ancient gassho-style buildings that make up the village makes this place very unique, and an absolute must see place in Japan. The village is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- Shirakawa-go is free to enter.
- Because of its remoteness, it is best to take an internal flight. The nearest airport is the Chubu Centrair International Airport

9. Visit a tea farm.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/crop-woman-whipping-matcha-tea-5947093/

(woman whipping up matcha tea)

<u>Tea</u>, in Japan, is a big deal, and something that forms the basis of strict ceremonies. There are many tea farms on the Japan map and these are well-worth visiting to understand how tea has become a major part of Japanese culture and how a tea ceremony is carried out. Most tea farms offer a guided tour of the estate and the potential for the visitor to take part in a formal tea creation and drinking ceremony. This is one aspect of Japan that every traveler should indulge in.

- Tea ceremonies are usually carried out in groups of around 18, and overseen by bilingual staff.
- Typically, a tea ceremony will cost around \$90 per person.

10. Take part in a Traditional Festival.

https://www.pexels.com/photo/two-women-in-yukata-near-market-1217579/

(Women wearing yukata in a festival)

The Japanese love their culture and hold many festivals throughout the year. One of the best of these is in spring in Japan, and is known as the <u>Hana Matsuri</u>, which is celebrated at the end of spring. The Hana Matsuri is a flower-festival dedicated to celebrating the birth of shinto-Buddhism's most famous and founding priest. The celebrations are enjoyed by the Japanese who encourage visitors to get into the spirit of the celebration with them. One of the biggest celebrations is in Tokyo itself, where the celebration includes beautiful displays of flowers and lots of Ama-cha tea.

There is lots of Ama Cha tea to be had, for a little as \$0.5

• It is traditional for ladies to dress in a Kimono and have an umbrella.

