



The Enchanting Floral tour of Japan



7 Days Honshu & Kyushu islands : 09May – 15May 2017

- Kitakyushu Kawachi, Kyushu Island Fuji Wisteria tunnel of flowers
- Hitachi Seaside Park lovely blue Nemophila
- Ashikaga Flower Park purple, white & yellow Fuji Wisteria, selected as top 9 dream destination by CNN
- Hitsujiyama Park & Mt Fuji ShibaSakura (moss pink)
- Local markets – Tokyo Ameyayokocho, Kitakyushu Tanga, Nakaminato Fish Market, Fukuoka Canal City Hakata
- Saitama Railway Museum – Japan largest railway museum
- Untraveled fishing village of Hiji, Kyushu Island
- Beppu – home to more than 2000 hot-spring is the world's second largest number of hot springs after the Yellowstone Park.

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DAY 01: Tue, 09May : KUALA LUMPUR – NARITA – HITACHINAKA CITY (D)

Upon arriving Narita International Airport, meet & greet and transfer to **Hitachinaka City**.

Hitachinaka is a small city on the east coast of Japan that offers visitors the sight of the panoramic splendor of the Pacific Ocean. A short visit to the Beach Paradise before enjoying a seafood dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnite in Hitachinaka City

DAY 02 : Wed, 10May : HITACHINAKA – TOCHIGI – CHICHIBU (SAITAMA) (B/L/D)

After an early breakfast, we shall start off our enchanting tour today by visiting the **Nakaminato Fish Market**.

Located adjacent to the Nakaminato Fishing Port, it has many big fish markets and seafood restaurants. This port is among the biggest bases for coastal and pelagic fishery in Honshu island.

Next would be one of our highlights – the lovely **blue Nemophila flowers at Hitachi Seaside Park**.

The Nemophilas which wash the whole area in to a blue hue.

This place was devastated by the tsunami of 2011 but now restored to its former, somewhat bizarre, glory. This is a testament to the ability of the Japanese people to bounce back from disaster.

After lunch, drive to visit **Ashikaga Flower Park** in Tochigi, the best place to appreciate the Fuji-Wisteria in Honshu island. Ashikaga Flower Park features lots of blue, white and pink fuji, as well as yellow laburnum (Japanese: kingusari) that look like yellow colored fuji. One large fuji tree is 100 years old and its branches are supported to create a huge umbrella of blue fuji flowers. There is also a long tunnel of white fuji flowers, while a tunnel of yellow kingusari needs a few more years to become an actual tunnel.

Drive to Chichibu to visit **Hitsujiyama Park** for their charming Shiba Sakura (moss pink) in the late afternoon.

Overnite in Saitama City.





DAY 03 Thursday 11May: Chichibu - FUJI KAWAGUCHIKO – TOKYO (B/L/-)

After breakfast, visit the **Saitama Railway Museum**. The Railway Museum in Saitama City is the largest museum of railways in Japan. The museum exhibits real trains, ranging from steam locomotives to Shinkansen trains, which tell the history of Japan's railway technology. The demonstration of a real steam locomotive circling on a swivel is a spectacular sight.

After an education tour of the railway museum, we shall continue our enchanting floral search at **Mt Fuji's Shibazakura**, where one could enjoy the breathtaking view of Mt Fuji. The majestic image of distant Mt. Fuji stands out among the flowers, and you can even see it reflected in a nearby pond. Along with the sight of a near-endless rainbow of blossoms blanketing the earth, this is definitely a must for all flowers lover!

Shibazakura is a flower that grows thickly, covering the ground like a lawn. The shape of its pretty flower petals looks like that of sakura (cherry blossoms) and it comes in a variety of colors including different shades of pink, white, and light purple, with some petals having striped patterns.

While sakura trees display their beautiful, pale pink blossoms overhead, the shibazakura at our feet burst forth in vivid colours. These lovely flowers blanket the land in a moving display of natural beauty.

In the late afternoon, we shall drive to Tokyo – **Ameyayokocho local market** – one of Tokyo's most exciting market streets. Underneath the railroad track at Ameyayokocho market, especially in the late afternoon, when most people finish work, there are a number of izakaya bars where you can sample delicious skewers of yakitori and chase them down with beer or sake. In the evening, these places are packed out, and it can even be a challenge to find an empty table. This is a place where is always excitement to experience in the heart of a big city like Tokyo. We shall spend some time to explore on our own account the choice of our dinner menu at the many food stalls available here.

Overnite in Tokyo – hotel in Ueno area which is near to Ameyayokocho.





DAY 04 Friday 12 May APR : TOKYO – Fukuoka – KITAKYUSHU CITY (B/L/D)

After an early breakfast, transfer to Haneda airport to catch the domestic flight to Fukuoka @0900. Upon arrival, transfer to Kitakyushu City (70km +- 1hr 15min). Lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, spend the whole afternoon at the **Kawachi Fuji Garden** for the Fuji – Wisteria tunnel of flowers.

Wisteria is a plant that grows all over Japan and which has captivated Japanese people for a long time. The flower clusters hang down for the tip of the plant's long vines and sway beautifully in the wind. Wisteria is so beloved that it even appears in Waka, a classic Japanese poem. At Kawachi Fuji in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, you can enjoy the grand sight of these beautiful wisteria flowers.

Once you step into the wisteria tunnel, you will be overwhelmed by the fresh scent and the beautiful scenery of numerous clusters of flowers lying on top of one another. It is like a fairyland

In the evening, we shall explore Kitakyushu City's local market – the Tanga Market known as the historic market that fills the belly of people of Kitakyushu region. **Tanga Market** opened in the early Taisho period (around 1913-1914) and is a historical market known as the "Kitchen of Kitakyushu area", beloved by the locals. The market evolved, first known as the point where ships congregated navigating up the Kamigoku River adjacent to the market.

Approximately 120 stores line Tanga Market and it is a fun place to take a stroll, even if you are just window shopping. You can run into famous foods of Kitakyushu such as Nukamiso (Salted rice-bran paste) cooked foods, Kokuragyu beef, Fugu (Blowfish), and bamboo shoots of Ouma. There are many eateries at the market where visitors can try the local "taste", such as sushi, Oden (Boiled cuisine), Teuchi udon noodles, yakisoba fried noodles, Okonomiyaki (Thin, flat cake of unsweetened batter fried with various ingredients), as well as full meals. In the center of the market is the Daigakudo Hall created in collaboration with University of Kitakyushu where various events take place. Some of these events include music, plays, and art exhibitions.

We shall also this evening have our own choice of our dinner 's menu on our own account.

Overnite in Kitakyushu City.





DAY 05 Sat 13May KITAKYUSHU – BEPPU (B /L/ D)

After breakfast, drive to Beppu (110km +- 1hr 45min).

Beppu – home to more than 2000 hot-spring is the world’s second largest number of hot springs after the Yellowstone Park.

A tour of Beppu including the **8 Hells of Beppu & Beppu Beach Sand & Bath .**

(optional on your own account to take the beach sand bath). Located in Shoningahama, the Beppu Beach Sand Bath provides a unique way to enjoy the benefits of warm sand. This could be a life time experience. Check it out during this trip.

Check into the hotel @ Beppu with Onsen (paxs can enjoy the famous onsen inside the hotel)

Dinner at the hotel.

Overnite in Beppu.

DAY 06 Sun 14May BEPPU – Hiji Town (Fishing Village) - FUKUOKA – Haneda Airport (B/L)

6.00am depart to the port to take the boat (pre-arranged) to **Hiji Fishing Village.**

Riding a fishing boat, we'll go to a port in Hiji town, 40 minutes from Beppu city. We can enjoy the scenery, the sunrise from the horizon just like cruising.

At the Ohga port, we'll watch **the fish auction** that starts at 7:30.

Japanese ports have a unique system of auctioning fish between buyers who bid using finger signs to indicate prices and a go-between who shouts numbers representing the prices. It's very interesting to see how fast the deals can be made and a lot of fish fresh from the sea is sold and delivered. And it's rare for tourists to watch the dealing up close.

We will enjoy breakfast that local ladies cook with fresh local fish while watching the port and the sea.

After breakfast, the boat will take us back to Beppu city and transfer back to the hotel to check out.

Late morning, drive to Fukuoka, lunch at a local restaurant (to include the famous Fukuoka ramen dish). Enjoy some last minutes shopping at the Canal City Hakata if time permit.

Transfer to Fukuoka airport for departure @ 1800, transit in Haneda to connect a flight back to Kuala Lumpur. **Day 07 Monday 15May arrive Kuala Lumpur @0700**



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Rates: per person, twin sharing, minimum 20 persons group size:

- a) Ground Tour package including tipping = MYR 6,920.00
- b) Air Ticket (All Nippon Airlines including domestic air ticket to Fukuoka, subject to change) = MYR 1,800.00 including all taxes/surcharges/GST.
- c) Travel Insurance = MYR 52.00

TOTAL = MYR 8,772.00/ person*

Single Supplement : MYR 1,900.00

*Rates are subject to changes in FOREX rates, unforeseen surcharges, air ticket prices etc.
(currency rate used : 1 JPY = 0.0400 MYR)

***INCLUSIVE :**

- a) International & Domestic Air ticket on All Nippon Airlines all in 30kg baggage, meals & seat selection.
KUALA LUMPUR – NARITA – FUKOUKA – HANEDA – KUALA LUMPUR
- b) Hotel accommodation good 3* hotel with daily breakfast (except Day 6 breakfast at the fishing village)
- c) Private transfer & admission fees plus meals as per tour itinerary.
Admission fee : summary Hitachi Seaside Park , Ashikaga Flower Park , Hitsujiyama Park , Saitama Railway Museum , Mt. Fuji Shibazakura , Kawachi Fuji Garden , 8 Hells of Beppu & Boat to Fishing village .
- d) Daily 1 Bottled Mineral Water

e) English speaking local guide(s).

f) Tipping for tour guide(s) and driver.

g) Travel Insurance @MYR 52.00 / pax . (for those who already have their own travel insurance may deduct these amount)

h) Non-shopping tour

***EXCLUDING:**

- a) 2 dinners at the local markets, any extras e.g. train/buggy rides not mentioned in the itinerary.
- b) Expenses pf personal nature like activities not part of itinerary, tipping to hotel/restaurant staff, laundry charges, mini bar charges, camera/video charges in any etc.

NOTE: Pictures used are from the library files and may be different from the actual site as flowers blooming time varies slightly according to weather and local conditions at the time of visit. It has been in the history record that end of April to mid of May is the blossom period of those flowers mentioned in our itinerary. The itinerary listed is also subjected to change due to local conditions which are beyond our prediction and control.

Weather expected would be late spring weather with an average of 17C – 25C day time.

Booking

- a) **Deposit payment @MYR 3,000.00 per person**
- b) **A copy of your passport**
- c) **Balance of payment – to be advised**

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