



Friendship Week 2025 22nd–29th March IPA Section Japan

Friendship Week in the Cherry Blossom Season

The time we have been waiting for so long has finally come with Sakura (Cherry blossom) greetings. Cherry blossoms usually open in late March and are in full bloom in about a week.

IPA Section Japan cordially invites you to the tour of Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Yokohama. Enjoy Japan's rich history, culture, and traditional cuisine "Washoku" recognized as an intangible world heritage by UNESCO. We look forward to meeting you in the cherry blossom season.

Itinerary and Program

Day 1, Saturday, 22nd March

- Arrival at KANSAI (KIX) International Airport
- Welcome and Transfer to the Hotel by Train
- Accommodation
Hotel Granvia Osaka
- Dinner with the IPA Osaka-Branch members at the KKR Hotel.



Day 2, Sunday, 23rd March

- Breakfast
- Shinkansen (Bullet Train) Trip to Hiroshima
- Lunch at Hotel Granvia Hiroshima
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
Some items that convey the devastation caused by the A-bomb attack, the photos and others are exhibited.
- A-bomb Dome (Ruin of Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall)
Around 15-minute walk from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

The A-bomb exploded at close range of the Dome. But it somehow escaped complete destruction. It has been designated as a World Heritage Site.

- Accommodation
Hotel Granvia Hiroshima
- Dinner with the Hiroshima-branch members at the hotel.



Day 3, Monday, 24th March

- Breakfast
- **Miyajima & Itsukushima Shrine**
To Miyajima and Itsukushima Shrine by train and ferryboat. Around 20-minute walk from the pier to the Itsukushima shrine.
Miyajima is one of the top three scenic spots in Japan and a part of Setonaikai National Park. Itsukushima Shrine is situated in this island. The shrine complex is listed among World Heritage Site.
- Lunch at the Miyajima Coral Hotel
- Return to the hotel by train to pick up your luggage.
- Shinkansen(Bullet Train) trip to Himeji
- **Himeji Castle**
Himeji Castle was constructed in the early 14th century. It has been designated as a National Treasure and a World Heritage Site.
- Move to Kyoto by Shinkansen(Bullet train).

- Accommodation
Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo
- Dinner is not included.



Day 4, Tuesday, 25th March

- Breakfast
- **Tour of Kyoto (Ancient Capital of Japan) on Coach**
- **Kiyomizudera Temple**
Kiyomizu Temple was founded in 778. It is listed as a World Heritage Site.

- **Nijo Castle**

Nijo Castle was constructed in 1603. It has been designated a National Treasure and a World Heritage Site.

- Lunch at KYOTO GARDEN PALACE

- **Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Temple)**

Kinkaku-ji Temple is known as the Temple of Golden Pavilion.

- **Toei Kyoto Studio Park**

Enjoy Samurai Sword Fighting show etc., It is just like stepping back in time to the Edo era (1606~1868)

- Accommodation: *Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo*
- Dinner with the IPA Kyoto and Nara Branch Members at the hotel



Day 5, Wednesday, 26th March

- Breakfast

- **Shinkansen(Bullet Train) Journey to Tokyo**

On a clear day, you'll get the spectacular view of Mt. Fuji from the train.

- Lunch at Hotel Grand Arc Hanzomon

- **Sensoji temple and Its Shopping Arcade**

Sensoji-temple is the oldest Buddhist temple in Tokyo and one of the most popular international tourist attractions.

- **Cherry blossom viewing at Chidorigafuchi Park**

Chidorigafuchi Park is the most famous for its cherry blossoms. Hundreds of cherry trees bloom all over both the promenade and on the Chidoigafuchi-bank. The breathtaking view from the observatory is a magnificent spectacle.

- Accommodation

Hotel Grand Arc Hanzomon (Japanese style rooms available)

- Dinner at the Hotel

With IPA Section Japan board members, the members of the Tokyo-branch and the Chiba- branch.

Day 6. Thursday, 27th March

- **Tour of Tokyo on Coach**
- Breakfast

- **Imperial Palace**

The palace and residence of their Imperial Majesties Emperor and Empress. It has a beautiful contrast between historic and modern structure.

- Lunch at Hotel Grand Arc Hanzomon

- **Tokyo Tower**

Enjoy the magnificent view of Tokyo, even Mt. Fuji on clear skies from the observation deck at 250-meter.

- **Hama-rikyu Gardens**

The Hama-rikyu Gardens used to be the gardens of the Tokugawa Shogunate family, originally constructed in the 17th century. Seen against the modern skyscrapers bristling around the park, the Hama-rikyu Gardens depict a distinctive beauty of Japanese culture.

- **Dinner Cruise**

Enjoy dinner and the beautiful nighttime landscape of Tokyo on a boat unique to Japan.

- Accommodation: *Hotel Grand Arc Hanzomon*
(Japanese style rooms available)

Day 7. Friday, 28th March

- **Tour of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park on Coach**
- Breakfast
- **Lake Ashi Cruising**

Lake Ashi is one of the best spots for viewing Mt. Fuji.

- **Great Boiling Valley with active sulfur vents and Aerial Ropeway.**

These scenic points offer a good view of Mt. Fuji on a clear day.

Notice: Great Boiling Valley

Due to the volcano gas, the participant having following symptoms is strongly advised to stay in a coach and not to enter the park.

- ① Allergic asthma
- ② Bronchial disorder
- ③ Respiratory(Pulmonary) complaints
- ④ Heart complaints
- ⑤ Using heart pacemaker equipment



⑥ Poor physical health

- Lunch at the Hakone hotel
- Accommodation
Hotel New Grand
- Farewell Dinner with IPA Kanagawa



Day 8, Saturday, 29th March

- Breakfast
- **Farewell and Departure of the participants**
- Transportation fee for the Airport is Not Included
Airport Bus is available from the hotel to Haneda Int'l Airport but not to Narita Int'l Airport. IPA Section Japan will make a reservation for you at your request.

Notice : The itinerary is subject to change without advance notice.