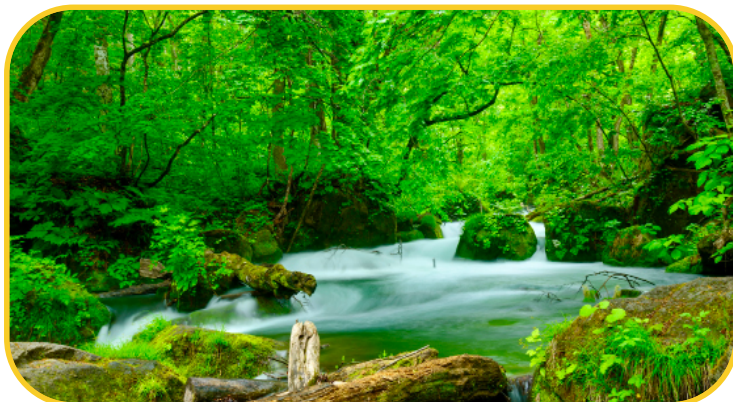


Join Panda Travel in...



# 2026 Tohoku in Bloom: Spring Explorer plus Tokyo Tour

(GP13494)



Cancel for any reason up to 65 days prior to departure date for a **FULL REFUND!**

**April 11 - 20, 2026**  
**8 Nights/ 10 Days**

*Omiya - Aomori - Towada - Odate - Oga - Akita - Kakunodate - Morioka - Ichinoseki - Matsushima - Sendai - Tokyo*

**\$100 OFF PER PERSON**  
on our complete package when you pay with a personal check/cash

☐ **\$4,488\***

per person-triple occupancy

☐ **\$4,488\***

per person-double occupancy

☐ **\$4,988\***

single occupancy

[pandaonline.com](http://pandaonline.com)

(808) 734-1961

1017 Kapahulu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96816

**A minimum of 16 participants is required for the tour to operate**

# Itinerary

## Day 1: (Sat) Apr 11 – Honolulu Depart Honolulu

→ Meet your Panda Travel representative 3 hours prior to departure at the airline's check-in counters.

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## Day 2: (Sun) Apr 12 – Haneda-Omiya Palace Hotel Omiya (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Arrive at Haneda Airport.** Meet your English-speaking local guide at the arrival lobby, and we'll transfer to **Palace Hotel Omiya**, our accommodation for the night. Our hotel is located with shopping and dining options nearby.

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## Day 3: (Mon) Apr 13 – Omiya-Aomori-Towada (B/L/D) Towada Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi) - [Enjoy onsen](#)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. We'll walk to Omiya Station, where we'll board a bullet train to Aomori. Your suitcase (2 pcs per person) will be delivered by courier services from Omiya to Akita. Please prepare an overnight bag for 1-night.**

→ **11:16am – Upon arriving at Shin Aomori Station, we'll begin our tour in Aomori.**

→ **12:00pm – First, we'll visit the Nebuta Museum Wa Rasse.** Dedicated to Aomori's annual August Nebuta Matsuri festival, this museum showcases beautiful exhibits that tell of the 300 year old festival's history, lore, and traditions. A museum favorite: the Nebuta parade floats. Composed of painted washi paper over wire frames, these magnificent lantern floats take one year to construct and are accompanied by teams of taiko drummers, musicians, and dancers during the summer festival.

→ On our way to Oirase, we will provide a **bento** to enjoy on the bus.

→ **2:30pm – Discover Aomori Prefecture's stunning natural gem, Oirase Gorge.** Renowned as one of Japan's most iconic scenic spots and a source of inspiration for countless artists, this breathtaking river valley invites visitors on a captivating journey through waterfalls, streams, and forests.

→ **5:30pm – Arrive at Towada Prince Hotel, followed by a western style dinner at 6:30pm.** During our stay, unwind in the hotel's onsen to relax and rejuvenate after a day of exploration.

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## Day 4: (Tue) Apr 14 – Towada-Odate-Oga-Akita (B) Hotel Metropolitan Akita (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:00am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby. We'll start**

**our full day tour to Akita.**

→ **10:30am –** Now a stop in **Odate**, the birthplace of the famous Akita dog, Hachiko, whose statue is outside Shibuya Station in Tokyo. Here we are at the **Akita Dog Visitor Center**, modeled after the 1920's Shibuya Station in Tokyo where loyal Hachiko waited patiently for his owner. Enjoy free time at the gift shop, which offers Akita dog themed gifts and souvenirs.

→ **12:00pm –** Enjoy and grab lunch on your own at **Michinoeki Takanosu**, a rest stop in Takanosu, where you can find a variety of souvenirs, snacks, and foods made with local ingredients.

→ We'll now drive to Oga City, the central town on the Oga Peninsula.

→ **2:30pm –** At the **Mt. Kanpuzan Rotating Observatory**, visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Akita from multiple angles on this rotating observatory, making it an ideal spot for photography and relaxation.

→ **3:45pm –** Once here, a visit to the **Namahage Museum**. This museum is dedicated to highlighting the Namahage Festival where young men don devil's masks and traditional straw garments on New Year's Eve. The men also hold papier mache knives and go door to door admonishing sluggards to ward off misfortune and bring blessings.

→ **6:00pm – Arrive at Hotel Metropolitan Akita**, our accommodation for the next 2 nights. Centrally located next to the JR Akita Station, our hotel offers abundant shopping and dining options.

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## Day 5: (Wed) Apr 15 – Akita-Kakunodate-Akita (B/L) Hotel Metropolitan Akita (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:15am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **9:30am –** Introducing an exciting **Magewappa making experience** where you'll learn the traditional craft of shaping thin cedar wood into a beautiful plate. This cherished art form from Akita Prefecture is known for its durability, eco-friendliness, and ability to elevate the flavors of your meals. Have fun!

→ **1:45pm –** After enjoying a **Japanese-style lunch** at a local restaurant, we'll take a leisurely stroll around **Kakunodate**, a former castletown and samurai stronghold in today's Akita Prefecture. While Kakunodate Castle no longer exists, the town itself feels frozen in time, remarkably unchanged since its founding in 1620. Admire the well-preserved Edo period traditional houses ("kura") and explore the tranquil samurai district, providing a glimpse into the rich history and cultural heritage of Kakunodate.

→ **3:00pm** – This afternoon, we'll visit **Hideyoshi Suzuki Sake Brewery**, also known as Suzuki Shuzoten. Established in 1689, it is one of the oldest operating sake breweries in Japan. The "Hideyoshi" brand name was bestowed upon the brewery by Lord Satake of Akita in the mid-18th century after he deemed their sake to be the best in the region, exclaiming "Hidete-Yoshi!" or "Extremely Good!" This recognition prompted the brewery to adopt the name Hideyoshi. Today, the brewery continues to produce high-quality sake that reflects the region's rich brewing heritage.

→ **5:15pm** – **Return to hotel.** Enjoy the evening at leisure.

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#### **Day 6: (Thu) Apr 16 – Akita-Morioka (B/L)**

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Morioka-Ekimae (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for a full day tour to Morioka. Your suitcase (2 pcs per person) will be delivered by courier services from Akita to Tokyo. Please prepare an overnight bag for 2 nights.**

→ **10:00am** – The morning begins with a drive to Morioka and a photo stop at **Lake Tazawa**. Almost perfectly circular in shape, this crater lake is the deepest lake in Japan and changes from sapphire-blue color to shades of jade green and indigo blue depending on the sunlight and season. Interestingly, the lake also does not freeze in winter. This is a great place to snap a photo of these stunning views.

→ **11:45am** – Established in 1891, **Koiwai Farm** holds significance as one of the largest and most renowned farms in Japan, showcasing sustainable agricultural practices and preserving the Tohoku region's farming heritage. The farm's dedication to producing high-quality dairy products, such as fresh milk, cheese, butter, and ice cream, has earned it a well-deserved reputation for excellence. And at **12:45pm**, **enjoy Yakiniiku lunch at the farm.**

→ **2:15pm** – Next is a fun visit to **Morioka Tezukurimura**, an artisan's village of workshops dedicated to local craftsmanship. The motto here is "see, touch, and create." As an introduction to traditional Japanese crafts, we'll enjoy a **hands-on experience: indigo dyeing.**

→ **5:00pm** – **Arrive at Daiwa Roynet Hotel Morioka-Ekimae.** Ideally located, the hotel is close to Morioka Station, with a variety of dining and shopping options just steps away. The remainder of the evening is yours to enjoy at leisure.

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#### **Day 7: (Fri) Apr 17 – Morioka-Ichinoseki-Matsushima-Sendai (B/L)**

Hotel Monterey Sendai (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby for Sendai.**

→ **9:30am** – Our morning begins with a visit to the

**Monument Commemorating Major Leaguers** with ties to Hanamaki City, which celebrates the achievements of baseball players Shohei Ohtani and Yusei Kikuchi, both graduates of Hanamaki Higashi High School and selectees in the 2021 MLB All-Star Game. The monument features their autographs, a commemorative photo, and their handprints.

→ **11:30am** – There's no better way to experience **Geibi Gorge**, one of Iwate's most magnificent sites, than on a relaxing 90 min.\* **boat ride**. As you cruise along the gorge on a traditional flat-bottomed boat steered by a serenading navigator and soak in the breathtaking seasonal beauty up close, you'll come to see why Geibikei Gorge has been deservedly designated a National Place of Scenic Beauty. \*During the ride, visitors will be invited to leave the boat for approx. 15 mins to admire the famous "lion's nose" rock formation on foot and purchase lucky stones to throw into a cliff opening on the opposite side of the river.

→ **1:00pm** – Time to enjoy a **Japanese-style lunch** at a local restaurant.

→ **4:00pm** – Our next stop is **Saigyo Modoshi no Matsu Park**, known for its breathtaking panoramic view of Matsushima Bay. The park is particularly famous for its stunning **cherry blossoms** that draw many visitors each spring.

→ **5:30pm** – **Arrive at Hotel Monterey Sendai.** The remainder of the evening is yours at leisure. Our hotel is located a short walk from Sendai Station. There're many shops and restaurants nearby.

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#### **Day 8: (Sat) Apr 18 – Sendai-Tokyo (B)**

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **8:30am** – **Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.** We'll take a short walk to Sendai Morning Shopping Street, which is located just a few minutes away from Sendai Station.

→ **8:45am** – We'll start our day at the energetic **Sendai Asaichi Morning Market** or "Sendai's kitchen." Here, savor an incredible selection of seafood sourced from Miyagi, one of Japan's top three fishing spots. This renowned fishing region, blessed with bountiful coastal waters, ensures that the seafood available at the market is fresh and of the highest quality. In addition to the seafood, the market also features the region's local produce and confections. Enjoy this fantastic cultural hub, where both locals and visitors come together!

→ **10:22am** – **Now, we'll take on a bullet train from Sendai Station to Ueno Station in Tokyo.**

→ **11:50am** – **Upon arriving at Ueno**, we'll visit our next destination.

→ **12:15pm** – Here we are at **Ameyoko Shopping Street**. This is the absolutely perfect place to get your omiyage. "Ameyoko" is short for "Ameya Yokocho" or "candy shop



back alley” since candies were traditionally sold there. Alternatively, it is short for “America,” a callback to the post-WWII era when American products were sold there illegally. Now, the street is lined with over 400 shops from cooked street food, snacks like dried squid, and fresh seafood to clothes, bags, accessories, cosmetics, and much more!

→ **3:30pm – Arrive at Sunshine City Prince Hotel.** Our hotel lobby directly connects to a huge shopping and entertainment complex with 4 towers that include an aquarium, planetarium, solarium, a virtual reality play experience, and a nearly 788 foot high skyscraper with an observation deck. In addition to the renowned Pokemon Center Mega Tokyo, Sunshine City is also home to Namja Town, a food and dessert theme park. Enjoy the evening of shopping and dining on your own.

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### Day 9: (Sun) Apr 19 – Tokyo/Full day at leisure (B)

Sunshine City Prince Hotel (Free Wi-Fi)

→ **After breakfast, enjoy your free day to explore Tokyo!**

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### Day 10: (Mon) Apr 20 – Tokyo-Haneda-Honolulu

→ **Breakfast at hotel.**

→ **9:30am – Meet your guide at the hotel lobby.**

→ **10:00am –** Our day begins with a visit to the **Nezu Shrine**, a landmark dating back over 1,900 years ago. When spring rolls around, Nezu Shrine bursts with life, teeming with a remarkable crop of 3,000 blooming azaleas decorating

a hilly landscape and a torii path. In Japanese culture, azaleas symbolize abundance and success, making them a thoughtful gift to confer good wishes onto someone. The annual **Bunkyo Azalea Festival** is the highlight of the year, attracting visitors from all over to celebrate springtime in Tokyo. Take some free time to explore and enjoy the astonishing scenery.

→ **11:30am –** Now, a visit to the **Tsukiji Outer Market**. A renowned bucket list spot, Tsukiji is the largest fish market in the world. While the inner auction market relocated to Toyosu in 2018, the charm remains in its outer market. Be sure to enjoy all that the outer market has to offer, from seasonal produce and candy tasting to knife-making artisan shops.

→ **2:00pm –** Enjoy some last minute shopping at **Divercity Shopping Center** on our way to Haneda airport. Located on the artificial island of Odaiba, this unique and massive landmark is one of the best shopping, dining, and entertainment complexes in Tokyo. Don't forget to snap a photo in front of the famous Gundam Statue. Towering at nearly 80 feet high, this figure is the only life sized Gundam statue in the world.

→ **Transfer to Haneda Airport** for our flight home.

→ **Arrive in Honolulu (same day).**

**Thank you for traveling with us!** 🐼



# Need to Know...



## Payment Policy

- » To secure your reservation, a \$75 per person deposit is required. The deposit can be refunded until February 5, 2026.
- » Final payment due by February 16, 2026. Package is non-refundable after this date.

## \* Fares and Fees (Priced in USD)

- » Are subject to change in light of fuel supplements, taxes, and differences in costs.
- » Air ticket fare is guaranteed, but taxes, fees, and fuel surcharges are subject to change until tickets are issued.
- » We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary with or without notice.



## Special Assistance

- » You must inform us of any disability/impairment that requires special attention at the time of your making the reservation.
- » We reserve the right to cancel the reservation(s) if the disability/impairment is unsuitable for the tour.
- » You are also responsible for any costs and/or accommodations related to your disability/impairment, such as providing your own travel companion.



## Travel Insurance

- » We highly recommend the purchase of trip insurance. Please ask our representatives for more information.



## Travel Documents

- » A valid passport is required for all U.S. citizens and must be valid and not expire at least 6 months from the return tour date.
- » Non-U.S. passport holders must check with the Japanese Consulate to see if a visa is required.



## Land Tour Operator & Costs

- » Land Tour Operator is Nippon Travel Agency.
- » Land Tour costs are based on current currency conversion rates, which are subject to change.



## Other remarks

- » Not Included in the tour: Gratuities for local English speaking guide; additional baggage fee charges from the airlines; alcohol and soft drinks with meals.
- » A minimum of 16 participants are required for the tour to operate.
- » You are expected to abide by domestic and international government and accommodation policies related to health, safety, and welfare.