

Cherry Blossoms and the Snowy Alps



Takato Castle Park, Ina City



Matsumoto Castle, Matsumoto City



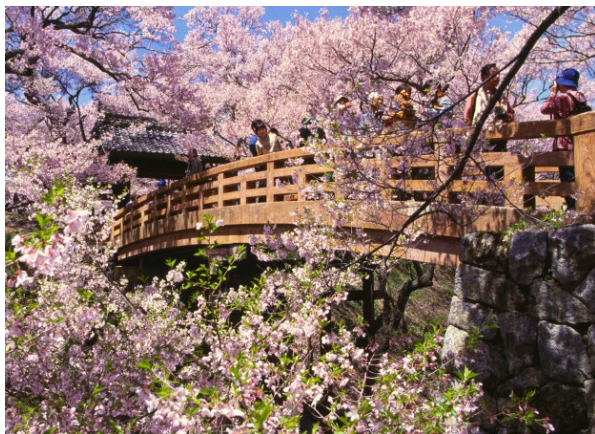
Komoro Kaikoen, Komoro City



Norikura Snow Corridor, Norikura Kogen



Cherry Blossom Spots



1. Takato Castle Park (Ina City)

One of Japan's Top 3 Cherry Blossom spots, Takato Castle Park is covered in over 1,500 cherry trees. The deep-pink Takato Kohigan variety can only be seen here, and dazzling illuminations awe visitors at night.

Blooms: Mid to Late April

Night Viewing: No

Access: a 20-minute bus ride from JR Inashi Station. Or, a 30-minute drive from the Ina IC exit.



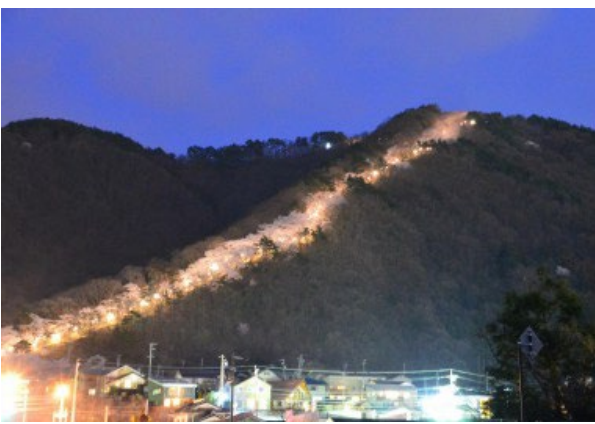
2. Kozenji Temple (Komagane City)

Kozenji temple comes alive in spring when its 70 weeping cherry blossoms bloom. In the distance, you can see the snow-covered Central Alps. During bloom, the grounds are lit up at night.

Blooms: Mid April to Early May

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 40 minute drive from the Azumino IC exit.



3. Mt. Hikarujo (Azumino City)

1,500 cherry trees climb up the spine of Mt. Hikarujo like a dragon taking flight. Visitors can hike along the blossoms to the top of the mountain in just 40 minutes.

Blooms: Mid to Late April

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 7 minute walk from JR Tazawa Station. By car, a 7 minute drive from the Azumino IC exit.



4. Matsumoto Castle (Matsumoto City)

From April 13th*, the trees are illuminated at night for about 10 days. During the first week of illuminations you can also enter the castle grounds at night.

Blooms: Early to Late April

Night Viewing: Yes

Location: Matsumoto City

Access: a 15 minute walk from JR Matsumoto Station.



5. Koboyama Koen (Matsumoto City)

4,000 cherry trees surround the peak of Koboyama. Enjoy beautiful views of Matsumoto City and cherry blossoms. Trees are illuminated at night.

Blooms: Early to Late April

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 30 minute walk from JR Minami Matsumoto Station.



6. Komoro Kaikoen (Komoro City)

Hundreds of cherry trees cover the maze-like ruins of Komoro Castle. During bloom, the cherry trees are illuminated at night until 22:00.

Blooms: Mid to Late April

Night Viewing: No

Access: a 3-minute walk from JR Komoro Station.



7. Ueda Castle (Ueda City)

Ueda's castle ruins are covered in hundreds of cherry blossom trees which bloom through April. The *Senbonzakura* festival is held from the beginning of April to the 23rd*, during which the cherry blossoms are illuminated at night.

Blooms: Early to Mid April

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 12-minute walk from JR Ueda Station.



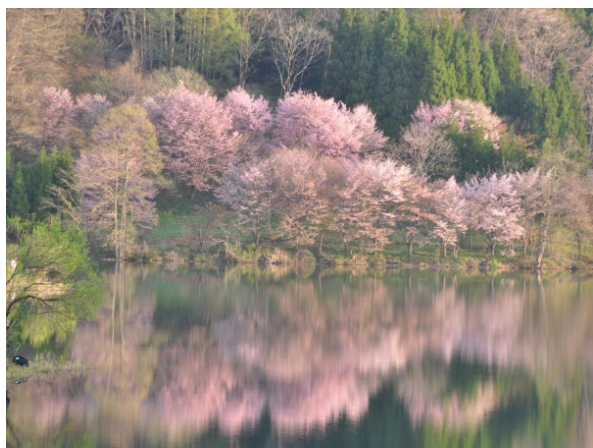
8. Nitanda no Sakura (Ogawa Village)

Cherry trees blossom throughout Ogawa, one of Japan's most beautiful villages. The hillside trees of Nitanda are picturesque, especially in contrast with the snowy Japanese Alps behind them.

Blooms: Mid to Late April

Night Viewing: No

Access: a 45 minute drive from the Nagano IC exit.



9. Lake Nakatsuna (Omachi City)

On the far shore of Lake Nakatsuna stands a row of delicate cherry trees which reflect clearly in the water below.

Blooms: Late April to Early May

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 50 minute drive from the Nagano IC exit.



10. Omachi Park (Omachi City)

On the hillside of Omachi's Higashiyama, this park overlooks the city and has great views of the Japanese Alps. During the cherry blossom festival, the park is illuminated at night.

Blooms: Mid April to Early May

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 40 minute drive from the Azumino IC exit.



11. Garyu Park (Suzaka City)

During the Garyu Park Cherry Blossom Festival (April 7 to 25*), the trees are illuminated at night and reflect beautifully in Garyu pond.

Blooms: Mid April

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 20 minute walk from Suzaka Station. Or, a 10-minute drive from the Suzaka Higashi Nagano IC exit.



12. Chikumagawa Teibo no Sakura (Obuse Town)

Cherry trees cover a 4km stretch of land along the Chikuma River, blooming beautifully in late April.

Blooms: Late April to Early May

Night Viewing: No

Access: a 20 minute walk from Obuse Station.



13. Iiyama Castle Ruins (Iiyama City)

Over 400 cherry blossom trees bloom in the ruins of Uesugi Kenshin's Iiyama Castle. During the cherry blossom festival, the trees are illuminated from 17:00 to 23:00.

Blooms: Late April to Early May

Night Viewing: Yes

Access: a 5-minute walk from JR Kita Iiyama Station. Or, a 35 minute drive from the Toyota-Iiyama IC exit.

Snow Walls



14. Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route (Omachi/Takayama)

Ride buses, trams, and cable cars on your way through the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route. The incredible scale of Kurobe dam and Murodo's snow walls will blow you away.

Snow Walls: April 15 to June 22*

Access: From Nagano Station, take the Ogizawa line bus to Ogizawa Station.



15. Norikura Snow Corridor (Norikura Kogen)

Norikura Kogen is a highland area that spans from 1,000 to 3,000 meters in altitude. In spring, 5 to 7 meter high snow walls remain in its upper reaches. A great way to see snow without the crowds of Tateyama.

Open: End of April to end of June

Access: drive or take the Norikura line bus from Kamikochi line Shinshimashima station to the Kanko Center Mae lot. From there, change to the Norikura Haruyama line bus.

*Dates may differ by year.

