



### **Nikko and Ashikaga Flower Park - 2 Days**

**Cherry blossoms and tulips in early April**

**Wisteria flowers in early May**

Nikko National Park offers beautiful mountain landscapes throughout the year, but spring is one of the best seasons during which to visit. Nikko is one of the top spots to admire cherry blossoms. The National Park is a religiously significant area, as evidenced by the Toshogu Shrine (Unesco World Heritage Site) and the many religious festivals that take place there. Further south is Ashikaga Park, which is known for its wisteria flowers (Fuji) and hanging flowers.

#### **Recommended dates:**

To see tulip and cherry blossoms at Ashikaga Flower Park, aim for early-mid-April. You can also enjoy Rei-taisai (The Great Annual Feast) of the Takinoo Shrine or the Gohanshiki (Rice Festival) at Rinnoji in Nikko.

To see the wisteria, aim for early May, you can also see the Rei-taisai of the Tosho-gu Shrine in Nikko.

#### **Day 1: Tokyo / Ashikaga / Kinugawa**

In the morning, depart from Tokyo Station for Ashikaga at 8:30 (duration: about 2:30).

Visits and meals at your leisure.



*Ashikaga Flower Park*



Visit Suggestions:

- **Ashikaga Floral Park**

From mid-April to mid-May, flowering starts with the cherry blossoms and tulips, followed by the purple wisteria (early May) and then the white and yellow wisteria. At the end of the day, before the park closes, you can enjoy illuminations that complement the colors of the flowers, creating a unique landscape.

The park's wisterias are usually in full bloom in early May, one to two weeks later than those in Tokyo. Other seasonal flowers can also be enjoyed throughout the year.

Depart for Kinugawa Onsen at 2:30pm.

**Kinugawa Onsen** is a popular hot spring resort town along the Kinugawa River in Tochigi Prefecture.

Dinner and night in a Ryokan.

**Day 2: / Tokyo**

Breakfast at the Ryokan.

Departure for Nikko at 9:00am.

(Duration: about 40min)

Visits and meals at your convenience.

**Nikko** is both a marvel of natural beauty and the site of great masterpieces of Japanese religious architecture. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999, most shrines and temples have also been classified as national treasures or important cultural heritages. Three major festivals take place in spring: Gohanshiki (Rice Eating Ceremony) at Rinnoji Temple in early April, the Takinoo Rei-taisai (great annual festival) in mid-April and the Nikko Toshogu Rei-taisai in mid-May.



Tōshō-gū Shrine





Visit Suggestions:

- **Nikko Tosho-gu**  
Built in 1636 in memory of Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, the Tosho-gu is a huge, exuberant display of complex of colors, gold leaf and sculptures of all kinds.
- **Rinnoji Temple**  
Rinnoji Temple is one of the top three largest Buddhist temples of the Tendai School and you can see the blooming of the 500-year-old old cherry tree called Kongo-zakura in late April-early May.
- **Takinoo Sanctuary**  
A bit out of the way, and located near the Shiraito waterfalls, Takinoo-jinja possesses its own charm, different from that of the other, larger temples.

Depart for Tokyo by train in the late afternoon.

**Ashikaga Flower Park showcases various flowers throughout the year, so this program can be done during any season.**

We can shorten or extend your stay, or add other destinations.

Do you enjoy **freedom and lack of constraints**?

We can leave you with a personalized list of interesting activities and locations, giving you the freedom to wander around as you please during your stay.

Do you want a bulletproof plan and **hassle-free getaway**?

We can arrange everything for you in advance, whether it be reserving activities, luggage shipments, car rental or guided tours, and more.

Don't hesitate to contact us for a personalized itinerary.