



## **Hirosaki - 2 Days**

Cherry Blossoms from late April to early May

*Blue sky and majestic mountains, an imposing castle amidst thousands of cherry blossoms; **Hirosaki** Park's spring landscape transports the visitor into another world. The city of Aomori, the northernmost capital of Honshu (Japan's main island) is a popular destination especially in the spring. Take advantage of the trip to also visit the fascinating archaeological site of Sannai Maruyama, one of the most complete and best-preserved villages of the Jomon period (13000-300 BC).*

### **Day 1: Tokyo / Hirosaki**

Depart for Hirosaki at 8:00am. (Duration: about 3 hours 40 minutes).

Visits and meals at your convenience.

*The city of **Hirosaki** is the former political and cultural capital of the Tsugaru region in the western part of Aomori Prefecture. The city grew around Hirosaki castle and remains one of the most culturally rich cities in the northern region of Tohoku. Several thousand cherry trees are planted in its park and are one of the most spectacular cherry blossom spots in Japan.*



Hirosaki Castle



Visit Suggestions:

- **Hirosaki Castle**
- **Hirosaki Park**  
One of the best cherry blossom spots in Japan with more than 2,500 trees of various subspecies. Its flower tunnels, petal-filled moats and illuminations at night make it the perfect place to do hanami (cherry blossom viewing). A festival takes place every year from April 23 to May 5, when the flowers are in full bloom.
- **Saisho-in Temple**  
Saisho-in is a temple famous for its 5-storey pagoda, which is "the most beautiful pagoda in Tohoku".
- **Old Samurai District**  
As in all fortified towns, the samurai, who served the Tsugaru clan, lived in residences surrounding the castle of their feudal lord. Today, a section to the north of Hirosaki Castle remains preserved as an ancient samurai quarter. Three samurai houses and a merchant house are open to the public
- **Neputa Mura**  
The Neputa Mura or "Neputa Village" is a museum on the famous Hirosaki festival, the Neputa Matsuri which takes place every year from August 1 to 7. It also presents the other cultural specialties of the city.

Night in a Ryokan or Hotel

**Day 2: Hirosaki/ Aomori / Tokyo**

Breakfast at the Ryokan/Hotel.

Depart for Aomori by train at 9:00am. (duration: 50min)

Visits and meals at your convenience

*The city of **Aomori** was the main departure point for Hokkaido by ferry. The opening of the Seikan underwater rail tunnel and the advent of cheap flights have diverted travelers who are now completely bypassing the city. Today, Aomori is best known for its spectacular Nebuta Matsuri summer festival.*



Sannai Maruyama Iseki

Visit Suggestions:

- **Nebuta no ie Warasse**  
The Nebuta Warasse is an interesting museum dedicated to the city's famous Nebuta Matsuri, which is held every year in early August. The museum is housed in a unique building covered with red metal slates and captures the spirit of the festival to give visitors a taste of its lively atmosphere, history and traditions.
- **Sannai Maruyama Iseki**  
The site has been well known since the Edo period. Excavations that began in 1992 revealed a large colony during mid-Jomon period (about 3,900 BC to 2300 BC). Many structures such as pillar-supported buildings and burial pits have been discovered as well as numerous pieces of pottery, stone tools, and objects made from bone and wood. The numerous discoveries of this archaeological site have changed the image of the Jomon culture such as the discovery of their cultivation habits and the existence of a cultivar of chestnuts through DNA sequencing.

Depart for Tokyo by train in the afternoon.



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