



35 Moss Pink at Jupialand Hirata

[Hirata Village] MAP E-4

Flowering season: Late Apr. to mid-May

Laid out at the foot of Mt. Yomogida, this extensive park contains, among others, a camp site and a barbecue square. Its highlight is an impressive expanse of over 110,000 pink and white moss plants.

[Access] 5 min. drive after exiting Hirata I.C. on Abukuma Kogen-doro Expwy
[Inquiry] Hirata Village Office (Industry Sec.) Tel: +81(247)55-3115

Event

Moss Pink Festival at Jupialand Hirata

[Apr. 29 to late May]

You will be enchanted by a 1.4-hectare pink-and-white carpet woven by some 110,000 moss plants. During the festival, numerous open-air stalls allow the visitor to feast on taste treats while eyeing the picturesque scenery.

[Inquiry] Hirata Village Office (Industry Sec.) Tel: +81(247)55-3115

Shirakawa Area

36 "Otohime-zakura" Cherry Tree

[Shirakawa City] MAP D-5

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr.

This 400-year-old cascading cherry tree of the Beni Shidare-zakura variety was named "Otohime" (Princess of the Undersea Palace) due to its dramatic pink hue. Legend has it that Lord Date Masamune (1567-1636) of the Sendai clan, when on his way to visit the Shogun in Edo (now Tokyo) to present several young cherry plants, dropped by in Shirakawa and dropped off one of the cherry saplings. This then grew to become the fabulous "Otohime-zakura."

[Access] 10 min. walk from Shirakawa Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 20 min. drive after exiting Shirakawa I.C. on Tohoku Expwy
[Inquiry] Shirakawa Tourism Association Tel: +81(248)22-1147

Event

Cherry Blossom Festival at Shirakawa Komine-jo Castle

[Mid-Apr.]

During this festival, many open-air stalls sell "dango" dumplings and a variety of local specialties. Blossoms are illuminated in the evening.

[Inquiry] Shirakawa Chamber of Commerce & Industry Tel: +81(248)23-3101



37 Nanko Park [Shirakawa City]

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr. MAP D-5

Nanko Park is the oldest park in Japan, established in 1801 by the historically famous Lord Matsudaira Sadanobu of the Shirakawa clan. In April visitors can enjoy the blossoms of some 800 Somei-yoshino cherry trees. From late May seasonal flowers, including azaleas, grace the park year round. "Rakuoh-zakura" cherry blossoms in the Nanko Shrine compound are also well worth viewing. Nanko Park is a nationally designated historic and scenic place and a prefectural natural park.

[Access] By bus from Shin-Shirakawa Sta. on JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line, alighting at Nanko-koen stop; or 20 min. drive after exiting Shirakawa I.C. on Tohoku Expwy
[Inquiry] Shirakawa Tourism Association Tel: +81(248)22-1147



38 "Otome-zakura" Cherry Tree [Shirakawa City]

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr. MAP D-5

During the feudal period, a cherry tree was planted beside the Komine Castle main donjon in a memorial service for a maiden (*otome*), a human-like sacrifice for the castle renovation. Though the original "Otome-zakura" burned down during the Boshin Civil War, her second-generation offspring blooms in glory every year, enhancing the beauty of the castle.

[Access] 5 min. walk from Shirakawa Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 15 min. drive after exiting Shirakawa I.C. on Tohoku Expwy
[Inquiry] Shirakawa Tourism Association Tel: +81(248)22-1147



40 "Natsui Sembon-zakura" Cherry Trees [Ono Town] MAP F-4

Cherry blossom season: Mid- to late Apr.

Event

"Natsui Sembon-zakura" Festival

[Mid-Apr. to early May]

Well over 1,000 blooming cherry trees enhance the beauty of the 5-kilometer-long Natsui River banks. The trees are illuminated in the evening (18:30 ~ 22:00) during the blooming season.

[Access] 5 min. walk from Natsui Sta. on JR Ban'etsu-tosen Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Ono I.C. on Ban'etsu Expwy
[Inquiry] Ono Town Tourism Association Tel: +81(247)72-6938

As the "Natsui Sembon-zakura" come into bloom, the blossoms are illuminated, a folk dance parade takes place, and 100 "Koi-nobori" carp streamers are hoisted. Open-air stalls abound.

[Inquiry] Ono Town Tourism Association Tel: +81(247)72-6938

39 Horikawa Riverside Park [Nishigo Village] MAP D-5

Cherry blossom season: Late Apr.

Over 1,000 cherry trees are in and around the riverside park. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the blossom-lined Horikawa River banks, bathe in the warm spring sunlight and enjoy the view of the spectacular Nasu Mountain Range.

[Access] 10 min. drive from Shin-Shirakawa Sta. on JR Tohoku Shinkansen Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Shirakawa I.C. on Tohoku Expwy
[Inquiry] Nishigo Village Office (Commerce, Industry & Tourism Sec.) Tel: +81(248)25-2910



Event

Genryu-no-Sato Nishigo Cherry Blossom Festival [Mid-Apr.]

Entertainment of various kinds are staged at the "Taiyo-no-Kuni (Sunny Land)" section of Horikawa Riverside Park when some 600 cherry trees come into blossom.

[Inquiry] "Taiyo-no-Kuni" Management Center Tel: +81(248)25-3100

41 Drooping Cherry Tree at Shoken-ji Temple [Izumizaki Village]

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr. MAP E-5



This 230-year-old drooping cherry tree is representative of Izumizaki Village. It bursts into bloom simultaneously with the cherry tree at Jogan-ji Temple, enhancing the beauty of the entire temple grounds. The local commerce and industry society illuminates the blossoms in the evening.

[Access] 5 min. walk from Izumizaki Sta. on JR Tohoku-honsen Line; or 10 min. drive after exiting Yabuki I.C. on Tohoku Expwy
[Inquiry] Izumizaki Village Office (Industry Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(248)53-2430

Event

Izumizaki Sakura Walk

[Mid-Apr.]

This walking event starts from Satsuki Park and makes the rounds of cherry blossom landmarks such as the Izumi River bank and Shoken-ji Temple. Be treated to a lecture by the temple's chief priest and enjoy complementary snacks and drinks at Tenno-dai along the way. At the goal, a flea market can be enjoyed at Izumizaki Country Village.

[Inquiry] Izumizaki Village Office (Industry Promotion Sec.) Tel: +81(248)53-2430



42 Kamega-jo Castle Park [Tanagura Town]

Cherry blossom season: Mid-Apr. MAP E-5

This park is the site of the Tanakura Castle built by Lord Niwa Nagashige in 1627. Some 500 cherry trees planted on the inner shore of the castle moat burst into blossom in mid-April, followed by 2,500 azaleas in May.

[Access] 10 min. walk from Iwaki-Tanagura Sta. on JR Suigun Line
[Inquiry] Tanagura Town Tourism Association Tel: +81(247)33-7886; Tanagura Town Office (Commerce, Industry, Agriculture & Forestry Sec.) Tel: +81(247)33-2113

Event

Juman-goku Tanagura Castle Festival [Mid-Apr.]

Festive events associated with the history of Tanakura Castle are featured, such as a *daimyo* feudal lord procession, the *kago* palanquin race, and a *mochi* (rice cake) throwing battle. At the festival site, the sale of local specialties is particularly popular among visitors.

[Inquiry] Juman-goku Tanagura Castle Festival Executive Committee Tel: +81(247)33-3161