

Hoshino Resorts KAI

“Stylish Hanami Tours”- Spring Outing with Locally Inspired Hanami Picnic Buckets

March 15 - May 31, 2020

KAI, the onsen ryokan brand operated by Hoshino Resorts, will offer the “Stylish Hanami Tours” at 14 of their resorts around Japan. Hanami (cherry blossom viewing) is the classic Japanese spring activity. The team at KAI wants to give more people the opportunity to enjoy this Japanese tradition of welcoming the arrival of spring by gazing at the beautiful flowers while basking in the warmth of the sun.

*Unless otherwise specified, one hanami picnic bucket will be provided to each group. It must be returned after the hanami.



Cherry Blossom Excursion (KAI Izumo)

What are the Stylish Hanami Tours?

- A new kind of hanami, where visitors can experience the history and customs of the region in addition to viewing the flowers
- Inspired by the bamboo buckets travelers would carry with them in the past, Hoshino Resorts has prepared “hanami picnic buckets” to help guests enjoy the hanami event

▼ “Stylish Hanami Tour” descriptions

KAI Izumo: Ride a rickshaw and enjoy *warigo* soba during Cherry Blossom Excursion

KAI Izumo, an onsen ryokan with open-air baths in every room located at the Tamatsukuri Onsen in Shimane, will offer the “Cherry Blossom Excursion.” *Warigo* soba, created in Matsue, Shimane Prefecture, is said to have originated when a feudal lord put his soba in a multi-leveled box and ate it outside. Guests on the Cherry Blossom Excursion can sit under the cherry trees and enjoy their *warigo* soba like a lord from feudal Japan and finish up by drinking the delicious soba broth.

Features

- Over 350 cherry blossom trees lining the Tamayu River, which flows right in front of KAI Izumo
- Hanami picnic bucket with *warigo* soba, soba broth, and folded tatami mat (must be returned)
- Ride through the cherry blossom trees on a rickshaw (only during the week when flowers are in full bloom)



Dates: April 1st - 20th, 2020

Time: 3 - 7 pm **Fee:** ¥500 for 1 set of Hanami Picnic Bucket (2 people) *5 sets offered per day

Booking: Book on the day through reception

Notes: Rickshaw operating from April 1st - 7th. ¥3,000/person (30-minute ride).
5 groups per day (1 - 2 people)

KAI Tsugaru: Enjoy seven weeping cherry trees on the “Weeping Cherry Tree Tour”

KAI Tsugaru, an onsen ryokan located in Owani, Minamitsugaru District, Aomori Prefecture, will offer the Weeping Cherry Tree Tour. During this hanami experience, guests can experience Tsugaru culture by playing the shamisen, drinking cider, and relaxing under the cherry blossom trees.



Features

- Enjoy being surrounded by the seven weeping cherry trees in the secluded detached garden. After the sunset, you can also enjoy the illuminated cherry trees.
- Hanami picnic bucket containing a *bachi* (pick) case for the shamisen made using traditional Tsugaru *koginzashi* embroidery, a sheet music cover, glasses with *kogin* patterns (above three must be returned), apple pie, and cider
- Tsugaru shamisen experience under a cherry blossom tree. Guests will learn to play the song “Sakura Sakura” with instructions from KAI Tsugaru staff



Dates: May 1st - 7th, 2020 **Fee:** ¥5,000/person

Capacity: 1 group per day (2 - 4 people)

Booking: KAI Reservation Center (+81-50-3786-1144)

Notes: Tsugaru shamisen experience from 3:30 - 4:30 pm.



KAI Aso: Enjoy sparkling water at the “Sparkling Hanami”

KAI Aso, an onsen ryokan located at Aso-Kuju National Park, will offer the “Sparkling Hanami.” Guests will collect water at a spring listed in the Japanese government’s top 100 springs, and head to a park where they will be able to fully enjoy the beauty of nature with the five peaks of Mt. Aso in the background. At the park, they can carbonate and drink their spring water, add syrup to it, or enjoy it however they like. The hanami picnic bucket will include the bubbly “carbonated fruit,” made by pickling fruit in carbonated water.

Features

- Enjoy the colorful flowers at Kuju Flower Park, with over 3 million flowers of 500 species blooming from spring to autumn.
- Hanami picnic bucket featuring the carbonated water set (carbonated water maker, handmade glasses by a local artisan, water bottle, mat, syrup, carbonated fruit)

Dates: April 20th - May 31st, 2020

Fee: ¥3,000/person, Capacity: 3 groups/day (2 people per group)

Booking: KAI Reservation Center (+81-50-3786-1144)

Notes: Will be canceled in case of rain. Transport not included.

Schedule: 10:00: Depart KAI Aso

→ 10:30: Collect water at the spring

→ 11:00: Arrive at the park. Hanami starts.

→ 12:00: Leave the park → 13:00: Return to the resort



▼ Other Stylish Hanami Tours

KAI Alps: Picturesque Apple Hanami | May 3rd - 10th

For just one week when the apple tree flowers bloom, the resort will place special hanami seats in the apple orchard so that guests can enjoy viewing the flowers of the apple trees, and they will also be able to pick the flowers together with the help of apple farmer.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Apple dorayaki, roasted apple tea, apple jam, tea utensils (must be returned)



KAI Matsumoto: Hanami Stroll in Matsumoto, the City of Education | April 7th - 25th

Ever since the days of Chikuma Prefecture in Matsumoto, education was one of the prefecture's founding principles, and in the Edo period it had the most *terakoya* (private temple schools) of any prefecture in Japan, which is why Matsumoto is known as the "city of education." Taking inspiration from this, guests on this tour will walk down the path lined with spring flowers like cherry blossoms, magnolias, and Japanese dogwood, from the schoolhouse of the old Kaichi School, recognized as a National Treasure of Japan, to the Important Cultural Property of Agatanomori Park (formerly Matsumoto High School). Guests can enjoy an "academic" hanami experience, doing things like using the old map to compare and contrast the Matsumoto from the past and present, or writing down their thoughts in the *terakoya* notebook.

Hanami Picnic Bucket: *One per person

Old map, terakoya notebook, pencil, konpeito, fuyaki candy, soba tea bag with Matsumoto Castle design, reusable bottle (must be returned)

KAI Nikko: Elegant Edo Period Hanami | April 15th - 25th

At the historic Tamozawa Imperial Villa, guests can look at the 400-year old weeping cherry trees, while composing *waka* poems like the nobility of the Edo period, when Nikko was at its most prosperous age. It's a chance for visitors to escape from everyday life and reflect on themselves.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Wagashi sweets made for spring by the historic *wagashi* store Oshiyama presented in dishes made in the Nikko woodcarving style, and a strip of paper and calligraphy pen to write *waka* poems

KAI Kawaji: Wild Grass Tea Hanami Tour | April 18th - 25th

Guests will wake up with the dawn and learn from the villagers who start work in the early morning and create wild grass tea using a water mill as their first task of the day. Using traditional tools like a mortar and ceramic tea roaster, guests will turn wild spring grass into tea, and drink it while they view the cherry blossoms.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Wild spring grasses from the mountains, mortar, and confectioneries that go with tea in the mountains



(From left) Hanami tour/wild grass tea brewing at KAI Matsumoto, KAI Nikko, and KAI Kawaji

KAI Kinugawa: Folk-Art River Hanami | April 20th - 26th

Guests can enjoy the wildflowers blooming in the valley while riding a boat down the Kinugawa River. In the Edo period, people would transport timber by floating rafts down the Kinugawa River. In order to stop people from colliding with these rafts, passenger boats were banned from winter to spring, so only the timber merchants were able to view the flowers while floating down the river. The Folk-Art River Hanami will reproduce what this experience would have been like. Wearing the traditional clothes of timber merchants, like *hanten* coats and *kasa* hats, and guests will get to travel down the fast-flowing Kinugawa river.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Hanami notebook with a cover featuring folk art by Kurobane Aizome (from Otawara, Tochigi), and strawberry sweets

KAI Sengokuhara: Morning Hanami with an Art Butler | April 1st - 20th

Guests will not only see the 150 Yoshino cherry trees in the Miyagino area lining the banks of the Haya River in Hakone, but will also get a chance to capture them in a form of a drawing. Staff members with knowledge in art will act as “art butlers,” traveling alongside the hanami visitors and helping them with their landscape drawing. They can help with selection of tools to use and give advice on the structure of the piece or how to get the right color of the cherry blossoms.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Drawing equipment (colored pencils, sketchbook, pencils), warming items (blanket, hot drinks, sweets)

*Pencils and blanket must be returned

KAI Hakone: Spring Traveler Hanami | March 21st - April 12th

In the Edo period, Hakone flourished as a post-station town located in a mountain pass. In Hakone, the hanami period lasts for a long time due to the elevation difference and the many varieties of cherry blossoms.

Wearing traditional traveler's clothing, guests can experience hanami like a traveler from the Edo period: visiting one of the flower viewing spots around KAI Hakone such as Gora Park, eating sweets from dishes made in the Hakone *yosegi* style, and writing haiku or letters using writing implements made in the Hakone *yosegi* style.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Spring sweets in Hakone *yosegi* dishes, Hakone *yosegi* tumblers, writing implements, hand towels, paper lantern, map of hanami spots around KAI Hakone

*Writing implements, hand towels, and hanami map can be kept

*In addition to the picnic bucket, traveler clothes (*kasa*, *kappa*, straw sandals, *tabi*) and a goza mat will be provided

KAI Kaga: Tea Ceremony Hanami Tour | April 1st - 30th

In a beautiful, secluded weeping cherry tree grove in Kaga, guests can view the flowers while enjoying tea they prepared themselves. The cultural policies promoted by the Maeda clan, who had deep knowledge of cultural practices, have continued to influence Ishikawa Prefecture for last 400 years. They also promoted the tea ceremony culture they learned from Sen no Rikyu, and their population of tea experts is still among the highest in all of Japan.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Paper cord shaped like a cherry blossom, hand towel made in the Kaga *yuzen* style, cherry blossom sweets, *Kutani* ware dishes, open-air tea ceremony set, descriptions of open-air tea ceremony and sweets

*Everything except the tea and sweets must be returned



(From left) Hanami tours of KAI Kinugawa, KAI Sengokuhara, KAI Hakone, KAI Kaga

KAI Enshu: Enshu Outing | April 10th - 30th

Participants in this program will enjoy viewing the beautiful rhododendrons while sitting on a bench at the TSUMUGI Tea Field, and making their favorite tea/herb tea selected from the tea seller's range. From just before April to mid-May, two types of rhododendron will be in bloom at TSUMUGI Tea Field.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

KAI Enshu original tea utensils, tea caddy, tea chest filled with sweets to go with the tea, herb tea, green tea

KAI Ito: Sea Breeze Hanami | March 20th - April 7th

Chouzenji Temple, located on a hill in Usami, Ito, is a beautiful secluded spot where visitors can enjoy the flowers of all four seasons. Looking down on Sagami Bay from the open courtyard, the beautiful blue sea is visible beyond the light pink cherry blossoms.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Cherry Blossom Leaf Mochi, a popular Ito treat made with cherry blossom leaves, tea blend of cherry blossom leaves and camellia, drink bottle, teacups, wet towel

*Drink bottle, teacups, and towel must be returned

KAI Anjin: Night Cherry Blossom Walk Tour | March 15th - 31st

This tour is modelled thinking of hanami that would have been experienced by British sailor Miura Anjin (born William Adams), who the resort is named after. The Matsukawa River, one of the Eight Views of Ito, flows past the resort, and in the springtime, guests can enjoy the cherry blossoms blooming on the riverbank while listening to the gentle sound of the stream. It is also thought that the first Western-style ship made in Japan was built by Anjin near the mouth of this river. Guests will walk alongside this Matsukawa River together with KAI Anjin staff, and learn about the history of Ito as they enjoy the night cherry blossoms. After the walk, they can relax with the tea set provided in their room and watch the beautiful sight of the calm ocean at night.

Hanami Picnic Bucket:

Antique tea set designed to look like the picnic hampers popular in Miura Anjin's home country of England, black tea, and three types of cupcake

*Teacups and pot must be returned



(From left) Hanami tours of KAI Enshu, KAI Ito, and KAI Anjin