

# How to Enjoy Ohanami & Its Etiquette

From late March to April, cherry blossoms start to bloom throughout Japan. It is no exaggeration to say that "Cherry Blossoms" represent spring beauty in Japan, where the four seasons clearly change. In their best season, many of the hotel guests also plan ohanami (cherry blossom viewing). Before going out for ohanami, please learn how to enjoy it together by following its customs and etiquette. Enjoy ohanami as an experience of Japanese culture.

## (1) Ohanami as a Seasonal Tradition in Japan

Cherry blossoms, which last for only about two weeks after fully blooming beautifully, are an essential feature for Japanese to gain a sense of the season. Cherry blossoms falling splendidly are often compared to the brevity of life or a love lost in vain. So many Japanese verses and poems have been written using cherry blossoms as a seasonal term since ancient times.

<<Ogura Hyakunin Isshu  
(Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets)>>  
Color of the flower  
Has already faded away,  
While in idle thoughts  
My life passes vainly by,  
As I watch the long rains fall.  
(Ono no Komachi)



## (2) Ohanami Lunch/Dango (Dumplings)/Sake (Check Whether Alcohol Is Allowed)

During the ohanami season, a variety of boxed lunches and sweet rice dumplings called dango are sold at department stores and food stores. We recommend you to sit down under the tree and enjoy cherry blossoms while leisurely eating a delicious food.

Drinking alcohol is another enjoyment in ohanami. However, drinking alcohol is prohibited in some of places, so please confirm it in advance. In addition, drinking too much and/or making a great fuss will annoy other people enjoying cherry blossoms quietly. Be careful.



## (3) Minimize Place to Be Held

It is comfortable and fun to enjoy cherry blossoms under the tree. However, good places to smoothly access cherry blossoms are limited. Please reserve the minimally required space for you so that other people can also enjoy ohanami comfortably. Please follow the local rules before reserving your place as well.



## (5) Use Restrooms

In this season, so many people gather for ohanami. Accordingly, queues of people often form in front of the public or temporary restrooms. Please go to the restroom earlier not to relieve yourself outdoors.

In addition, you must not take out any toilet paper rolls from the restrooms. Please use only as much as you need.



## (4) Do Not Pull Branches

Photos taken together with beautiful cherry blossoms reflect the spring in Japan.

However, you must neither pull nor break any branches. If the tree is damaged, not only the blossoms but also buds will be affected, which may result in no more blooming next season.

Cherry blossoms look different in different places. It is also fun to enjoy ohanami looking for your best spot.

Please handle cherry trees with care so as to pass down the seasonal tradition to the next generation.



## (6) Take Back or Sort Refuse

Leftovers and/or refuse damage the beautiful landscape of cherry blossoms. Please take your refuse home or sort it properly before putting it into the garbage box installed, if any.



### About Fujita Kanko Inc.

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