



## HIGHLIGHTS

- + Walk the Philosopher's Path under a canopy of fluttering cherry blossom
- + See Kyoto's two great pavilions, the Silver Pavilion, Ginkaku-ji, and the Golden Pavilion, Kinkaku-ji
- + Witness a tea ceremony performed by a tea master, and have dinner with a geisha
- + See the famous Zen garden at Ryoan-ji
- + Wander the serene spaces of the Moss Garden at Saijōji
- + Visit Kenroku-en, one of Japan's most important gardens
- + Travel in a small group and make new friends
- + Relax – we'll take care of everything!

For a detailed itinerary, please visit:  
[www.rosstours.com](http://www.rosstours.com)



**TOUR LEADER**  
**CAROLYN DWYER**

Carolyn Dwyer has a Diploma in Horticulture and Landscape Design and has led many tours to Japan, for Ross Garden Tours. Carolyn gardens in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

Let us take you to the most beautiful places in the world.



Ross Garden Tours were first to establish Japan as a garden tour destination back in 1980. We've made friends with the country's masters of horticulture and they are keen to share their knowledge with you. We also go beyond the extraordinary gardens, to give you an experience of the culture, traditions and unique atmosphere of Japan. I'm sure it will captivate you as it has me.

*Graham Ross*

Graham Ross, founder of Ross Garden Tours

**TO BOOK** PLEASE CONTACT ROYCE OR ROSLYN



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# JAPAN

## IN SPRING



**1 – 14 APRIL 2014**

Follow the cherry blossom trail as it blooms from Kyoto to Tokyo, taking in Japan's master gardens and fascinating culture. It's 14 days of wonder, beauty and serenity.







## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 TUE 1 APR 2014 SYDNEY TO NARITA

Carolyn Dwyer, your Ross Tour Leader, will meet you at Sydney Airport for the overnight flight to Narita.

### DAY 2 WED 2 APR 2014 NARITA TO KYOTO

The bullet train will speed us from Narita to Kyoto, where our base for four nights is Westin Miyako and its extraordinary gardens. Our welcome dinner is at Junsei, where the traditional architecture and gardens are the perfect setting for the simple, clean flavours of Japanese food.

### DAY 3 THU 3 APR 2014 KYOTO

A stroll along the Philosopher's Path under hundreds of cherry trees in full bloom, with the rushing waters of the Shirakawa River below us, is the best way to arrive at the Silver Pavilion. This 15th century temple has a Zen garden of raked and moulded gravel, with ancient pines, ginkgoes, maples and camellias. Later we'll witness a tea ceremony and enjoy lunch in the private garden of a famous Japanese artist, Kansetsu Hashimoto.

### DAY 4 FRI 4 APR 2014 KYOTO

Three icons of Japanese garden design today, starting with the morning light glowing on the gold leaf-covered Golden Pavilion. Next it's the famous rock garden at Ryoan-ji. Our final highlight is Saihoji Temple and its beautiful Moss Garden. Access to this treasured and fragile garden is restricted to protect the moss, and the spirit of the place.

### DAY 5 SAT 5 APR 2014 KYOTO

Celebrate the cherry blossom today, framed by dramatic architecture and natural beauty: Heian Shrine, with its 300 weeping flowering cherries; Nijo Castle with its ancient pines and cherries; and the towering Kiyomizu Temple, set against a backdrop of wild cherries. Dinner tonight includes an elegant geisha performance.

### DAY 6 SUN 6 APR 2014 KYOTO TO KANAZAWA

We'll catch the express train north to Kanazawa on the Sea of Japan, and stroll through the Edo-period Samurai House district to visit the ancient home of the Nomura Family.

### DAY 7 MON 7 APR 2014 KANAZAWA

One of Graham Ross' favourite gardens today: Kenroku-en, which expresses the six garden features – vastness, symmetry, solemnity, coolness, antiquity and pleasure.

### DAY 8 TUE 8 APR 2014 KANAZAWA TO AWAZU

Shirakawago village is nestled in a rural setting unchanged for centuries. We'll stay tonight in a Japanese ryokan and enjoy a traditional kaiseki dinner.

### DAY 9 WED 9 APR 2014 AWAZU TO NIKKO

We make our way to Nikko National Park and its famous monuments and mountains. Our hotel is the charming Nikko Kanaya Hotel, the oldest Western-style hotel in Japan. Fittingly, dinner tonight is western-style, complete with silver service.

### DAY 10 THU 10 APR 2014 NIKKO

The buildings of Toshogu Shrine are inspiring, but it is the natural beauty of the place that still casts a spell: 1000-year-old giant cryptomerias; the

turbulent waters of the Daiya River; and mists wrapping the mountain.

### DAY 11 FRI 11 APR 2014 NIKKO TO TOKYO

Tokyo today, with a stop at the Omiya Bonsai Village and Museum before checking into the luxurious New Otani Hotel. The hotel is set in 10 acres of beautiful gardens dating back to the 16th century.

### DAY 12 SAT 12 APR 2014 TOKYO

We'll visit Nezu Shrine this morning, but our first destination is Rikugien Garden, where 88 points offer a view that is a symbolic representation of a scene from classical Japanese literature. Our tour's farewell dinner tonight will be held in one of the hotel's garden restaurants.

### DAY 13 SUN 13 APR 2014 TOKYO TO SYDNEY

Our day is free to explore more of Tokyo before a late-afternoon transfer to Narita Airport for our flights home.

### DAY 14 MON 14 APR 2014 ARRIVE SYDNEY

Welcome home.

## TOUR DETAILS

### + OUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Fully escorted by Carolyn Dwyer
- Return flights (including taxes) from Sydney – Tokyo with Qantas
- Shinkansen and Express train travel
- Air-conditioned motorcoach
- Luxury accommodation for 11 nights, including an overnight stay at a traditional Japanese ryokan
- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 6 dinners
- Entrance fees to all gardens and sightseeing including: Ginkakuji, Hakusa Sonso, Heian Shrine, Kinkakuji, Ryoanji, Saihoji, Nijo Castle, Kiyomizu Temple, Fushimi Shrine and Nomura Family Samurai House, Kenrokuen, Shirakawago, Kegon Waterfall, Toshogu Shrine, Omiya Bonsai Village, Rikugien, Nezu Shrine
- Gratuities for hotel, porters and drivers
- Ross Garden Tours travel wallet and backpack

### + OUR TOUR COSTS

Twin Share per person, including air \$9995  
Twin Share per person, land only \$8495  
Single Supplement \$1595

### + DISCOUNTS

Early Bird \$350 (pay in full before 29 November 2013)  
Previous Traveller \$100  
Garden Clinic Member \$50

All prices in Australian Dollars. Air taxes as of 1 July 2013. Prices based on minimum of 15 passengers. Price is based on departure from Sydney. Price from other ports available. Group meals do not include beverages. Ask us about other sightseeing and travel arrangements including pre and post tour accommodation, transfers, stopovers and other tours. Please refer to Ross Garden Tours standard Terms and Conditions.