

MUST SEE SAKURA SPOTS Spring has finally come to Hida after the long, severe winter, which instantly signifies cherry blossoms! Cherry trees bloom quite late here compared to the rest of Japan, during mid to late April. Now is the time for "O-hanami", eating and drinking with friends, co-workers and family under cherry blossoms in full bloom. The following are our top spots for enjoying some fabulous pink color in the area.

In Takayama

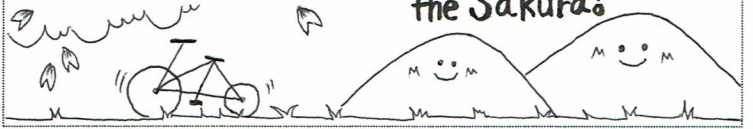
- ◆ Nakabashi Bridge
- ◆ The streets along Enakogawa River
- ◆ Shiroyama Park
- ◆ Hida Gokoku Jinja Shrine



In Hida-furukawa (20 min from Takayama by train)

- ◆ Shinshuji Temple
- ◆ Arakigawa River
- ◆ Matsuri Hiroba

Join one of our
cycling tours to see
the Sakura!



If you are interested in discovering some of these cherry blossom spots and even venturing away from downtown, please ask for details at the iCafe TAKAYAMA tour desk.

HIDA'S FESTIVE SEASON We have two big festivals this month that are registered with UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Both have a wealth of attractions, such as gorgeous floats, marionette shows, lion dances, parades and the fascinating night festivals. Do not miss them, if you are here on those days.

Takayama Festival (Apr. 14th and 15th)

- ◆ One of the top 3 most beautiful festivals in Japan
- ◆ Started in the late 16th Century to 17th Century
- ◆ Total of 12 festival floats for the spring festival
- ◆ 3 kinds of marionette shows
- ◆ Night Festival: Floats adorned with 100 lanterns make for a fantastic atmosphere.

Furukawa Festival (April 19th and 20th)

- ◆ One of the 3 major naked festivals in Japan
- ◆ Running since the late 17th Century
- ◆ Total of 9 festival floats
- ◆ Kids kabuki and 2 kinds of marionette shows
- ◆ Night Festival: The Okoshi Daiko drum performance on April 19th, from 8:30pm to around 1am.

The floats have been protected as treasures by each community. The people can even get into a fight about it.

Elegance



Toughness

The women's role is to help men wrap themselves with the white cloth called "SARASHI."

Enjoy the contrast between these two festivals. There are many other festivals also taking place in April apart from these two. Just follow the banners around town to experience them!



Find out more at
SATOYAMA EXPERIENCE

CAFÉ
TAKAYAMA

iCafeTakayama Tour Desk
(Open from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm)

Let's make the most of your Hida trip!