

Join **Linda Ross** on Travelrite International's 2026

JAPANESE CHERRY BLOSSOM GARDEN CRUISE & TOUR

FULLY ESCORTED CRUISE ON DIAMOND PRINCESS

25 March to 13 April 2026



Visiting Tokyo, Hiroshima,
Busan, Nagasaki, Kagoshima,
Matsuyama, Kochi, Kobe,
Shimizu and Kyoto

JAPANESE CHERRY BLOSSOM GARDEN CRUISE & TOUR

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with Linda Ross

With over 35 years of experience exploring the world's most beautiful gardens, Linda Ross brings unparalleled expertise and passion to garden-focused travel. A landscape architect and horticulturist, Linda is deeply inspired by the intersection of history, horticulture, art, food, and culture.

Currently working for *Gardening Australia* and *ABC Newcastle*, Linda shares her knowledge and love for plants with audiences across Australia. She has been the driving force behind the highly regarded Collectors' Plant Fair, fostering connections between plant enthusiasts and rare botanical treasures and designs gardens across NSW.

The author of numerous gardening books, including the beloved *Frangipani*, Linda's warmth, expertise, and storytelling will enrich every journey, offering travellers a deeper appreciation of the gardens and landscapes they visit with plenty of laughs along the way.



YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Depart Australia/Arrive Tokyo

Today we board our flight to Tokyo, Japan. We arrive in Tokyo later the same day. Upon arrival we are transferred to our city hotel.

DAY 2 Thursday, 26 March 2026

Tokyo

Tokyo is the political, economic and cultural capital of Japan. There are more than twelve million people living in Tokyo and millions more living within a radius of fifty kilometers. We will enjoy a city tour of exciting Tokyo this morning. We see the famous Ginza area and visit the Imperial Palace East Garden, which is still part of the Royal Residence. It is a superb example of traditional Japanese landscape design. We continue with a visit to Asakusa, the heart of traditional Japan. The main attraction is Sensoji, a popular Buddhist temple built in the seventh century, where Japanese couples in traditional dress are likely to be seen. We will have time to walk along Nakamise-dori, the bustling market area, where souvenirs and wooden sandals are sold. This evening, we will enjoy a welcome dinner with Linda and other tour members.

DAY 3 Friday, 27 March 2026

Tokyo

Today we visit the Omiya Museum, the most outstanding centre for bonsai in Japan. Opened in 2010, it has a collection of over 100 bonsai masterpieces. In addition, we will see bonsai pots, miniature landscapes in stone, books and woodblock print. We continue our travels to visit Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens, built in the early Edo period in 1629, where cherry blossoms are likely to be seen. This traditional garden exhibits the main elements of a Japanese garden and was named after a poem. It boasts a gorgeous pond adjoining the tea house, a full moon bridge and man-made hills. Linda will make sure we get the most out of our visits.



DAY 4 Saturday, 28 March 2026

Embarkation

This morning, we visit Ueno Park – the centre of a cherry blossom festival with 1000 cherry trees and where traditional 'Hanami' picnics under cherry trees take place each year. We continue with a visit to Rikugien Garden – a strolling garden from 1695. In the afternoon we are transferred to the port of Yokohama to board the Diamond Princess for our cruise around Japan.

DAY 5 Sunday, 29 March 2026

At Sea

A day at sea is the perfect opportunity to explore the fabulous facilities. Options include a visit to the spa for a relaxing massage. Late morning, join us for an interesting talk by Linda about her life in gardening and pointers on the design features of Japanese gardens.

DAY 6 Monday, 30 March 2026

Hiroshima, Japan

This morning, we arrive at Hiroshima, the site where the first atomic bomb was exploded and helped bring the end to WWII in the Pacific in August 1945. On our sightseeing tour we visit the Peace Memorial Park, where hundreds of cherry blossoms trees have been planted. We will see the Genbaku Dome, the surviving portion of a structure that crumbled in the explosion. We will visit Shukkei-en, a 17th-century miniature Japanese-style landscape garden. We continue with a visit to the Hiroshima Botanical Garden, which was opened in 1976. Located on a hill overlooking the Seto Sea it contains many glass houses displaying tropical and sub-tropical plants.

DAY 7 Tuesday, 31 March 2026

At Sea

A day at sea. Perhaps attend an exercise class, have a swim or visit the library to check out the large collection of books. Late morning join us for gardening trivia pursuit. Linda will call the questions to test your knowledge of plants and gardens.

DAY 8 Wednesday, 1 April 2026

Busan, South Korea

Today we call into the port of Busan, South Korea, where we enjoy a sightseeing tour with a local guide. We first experience the serenity of the 8th-century Bulguksa Temple, located on the slopes of Mount Tohan. We explore the royal tombs at Tumuli Park and visit the ancient Silla capital, Gyeong-Ju, a place, which is UNESCO designated as one of the world's top 10 historic sites. This palace and an artificial pond are part of Geongi National Park.



DAY 9 Thursday, 2 April 2026

Nagasaki, Japan

Today we arrive in the city of Nagasaki. It is best known as the site of the second nuclear attack on Japan during WW2. We have a sightseeing tour of the city. We see the Peace Memorial Park, located near Ground Zero, the centre of the blast, which is home to a beautiful memorial fountain and the 30-foot-high Statue of Peace. We will also see other parts of the city that was for 200 years Japan's port to the outside world. This afternoon the group will walk to the nearby Glover Gardens, where we see early European settlers' houses surrounded by attractive gardens.

DAY 10 Friday, 3 April 2026

Kagoshima, Japan

This morning we arrive into Kagoshima on the southernmost tip of the island of Kyushu which is famous for its views of the nearby volcano of Sakurajima and hot spring onsens. We have a tour of the city and we'll visit the famous Senganen Iso garden which was laid out in traditional manner in 1660 by the 19th Shimazu Lord, a family that ruled this part of Japan for 29 generations spanning 700 years. We also see the Shimazu Villa where the family lived.

DAY 11 Saturday, 4 April 2026

Matsuyama, Japan

Our port stop today is at Matsuyama, where we visit Matsuyama Castle. It sits 132 metres above the city and is surrounded by Shiroyama Park one of Japan's top spots for cherry blossom viewing. We will enjoy free time this afternoon for individual exploration.

DAY 12 Sunday, 5 April 2026

Kochi, Japan

This morning, we dock in Kochi, the capital of Kochi Prefecture on the southern coast of Shikoku where we enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city. We visit Kochi Castle, one of just twelve Japanese castles to have survived the fires, wars and other catastrophes of the post feudal age. The castle used to be the seat of the Yamauchi lords, who ruled over the surrounding region, then known as Tosa, during the Edo Period. The castle buildings have since been designated "important cultural properties" and now house local treasures and historical objects. We visit the Kochi Prefectural Makino Botanical Garden. The garden has 40 different species of cherry blossom, so we are sure to see several of them flowering. There are also many beds of well-tended flower with well-maintained paths. We will enjoy gorgeous views over the city of Kochi. We continue with a visit to the museum dedicated to Tomitaro Makino, a botanist and illustrator.



DAY 13 Monday, 6 April 2026

Kobe, Japan

Today we arrive into Kobe, the capital of Hyogo Prefecture and one of Japan's ten largest cities. Located between the sea and the Rokko mountain range, Kobe is also considered one of Japan's most attractive cities. On our sightseeing tour we will enjoy an orientation tour of the city including a cable-car ride, which offers spectacular views of Kobe, The Shin-Kobe Ropeway that lifts us up the southern slopes of the Rokko mountain chain. As it ascends, it passes by the Nunobiki Waterfall and the Nunobiki Herb Garden, giving a lovely aerial view of both. We will visit the herb garden, which features 200 varieties of herbs and several green houses. We continue with a visit to Sorakuen garden a true oasis in the middle of the city. The villa in the gardens used to be the residence of the former mayor of Kobe. We will explore the Kitano district the location of the houses of foreign merchants who used to trade with Japan in past centuries.

DAY 14 Tuesday, 7 April 2026

Shimizu, Mt Fuji

At 1.00pm, we arrive at Shimizu at the base of Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain and the focal point of the sprawling Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park where cherry trees should be in blossom. This afternoon we travel to Mount Fuji World Heritage Centre, where we will get spectacular views of Mount Fuji from the Observation Deck, depending on the weather. We continue to the Sengen Taisha Shrine built 1,000 years ago to protect the area from volcanic eruptions from Mount Fuji.



DAY 15 Wednesday, 8 April 2026

Disembark Tokyo/Kyoto

This morning, we dock in Yokohama. After disembarking we will travel by Bullet Train to Kyoto which will be our home for four nights. On arrival we will have a panoramic tour of Kyoto to see the main sights including the Kyoto Imperial Palace which is surrounded by the gorgeous Kyoto Gyoen National Garden. The palace was completed in 1855 and was home to the Imperial household from that date until the Meiji Restoration, when they moved to Tokyo.

DAY 16 Thursday, 9 April 2026

Kyoto

We start the day with a journey to the nearby hills to visit Jojako-ji, a 1640 temple set in a beautiful grove of trees. The temple platform provides a viewing space for the gorgeous garden, where we will enjoy the contrast of the delicate pink flowering azaleas which contrast with the lush green trees and bushes. We continue with a visit to the Kinkakuji Temple, also known as the temple of the Golden Pavilion. It was built in the late 14th century with three stories topped with gold leaf. It extends over a pond, which reflects the building and is surrounded by a beautiful, landscaped garden. In the afternoon, we will visit the Ryoanji Temple, and its famous rock garden. Attributed to the artist Soami, it was created in the 16th century in a space of thirty metres by ten metres. It is built in the waterless stream style and is composed of fifteen



rocks set into raked white gravel. The Zen Garden, with its arrangement of rocks, representing mountains, and sparse vegetation, is symbolic of an individual's journey through life.

DAY 17 Friday, 10 April 2026

Kyoto

Today we visit Nijo Castle, built in the early Edo period, the visit includes Ninomaro gardens which surround the castle, which have 430 cherry trees and ancient pines. Over 400 years it has survived many fires and earthquakes and the castle and the Shoin-zukuri style garden are renovated to their former glory. We continue our day with a visit to the Ginkakuji (Silver Pavilion) and the picturesque Philosopher's Path, which extends along the river under cherry trees, which we hope will be in blossom.

DAY 18 Saturday, 11 April 2026

Kyoto

In the morning we will visit Hakuasonso and have a visit to the garden and museum. This is a very authentic, beautifully designed, medium-sized, garden. It was originally the garden of Hashimoto-san, a famous artist and it is now designated as National Site of scenic beauty. We visit the atmospheric streets of Kiyomizu-dera, nearby to enjoy this bustling walking street. We will find many shops, where we are able to purchase souvenirs. The afternoon will be free for individual activities. In the evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner to say goodbye to Linda and other group members.

DAY 19 Sunday, 12 April 2026

Departure

This morning, we travel to Osaka. On the journey we will visit the uniquely Japanese Arashiyama Bamboo grove. We will pass through Osaka's downtown area on the way to the Osaka Castle. Built in 1583 and destroyed just 32 years later, the castle has undergone many reconstructions the most recent in 1931. Its walls encompass the Municipal Museum and the Hokoku Shrine, which is dedicated to its original owner, Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Later we are transferred to the Osaka airport for our flight to Australia

DAY 20 Monday, 13 April 2026

Arrive Australia

This morning, we arrive back in Australia and our activities conclude.

DIAMOND PRINCESS



The Diamond Princess is a premium quality cruise ship with every convenience and comfort built in. It is one of the largest, most innovative ships featuring state-of-the-art amenities and an abundance of balcony staterooms. There are eight restaurants and cafés (featuring "any-time dining"), four pools, nine whirlpool spas, and a range of bars and lounges. There is plenty of space to relax on this big ship with a small ship feel, as it is so spacious. There are poolside tables where you can dine and a huge selection of choices including traditional fine dining, 24-hour room service, a delicious Pizzeria, sumptuous buffet selections and the specialty restaurant – Trattoria Sabatini. Enjoy Broadway-style productions in the evenings, the scholarship at sea lectures during the day, or just relax in your luxurious stateroom. A voyage on the Diamond Princess is an experience to be savored and remembered!

CLOTHING ON BOARD DIAMOND PRINCESS

You will need casual shipboard attire for day wear and evening wear. For casual nights on board, you will need a sports shirt and slacks and equivalent for the ladies. Informal nights require a jacket and tie for the gentlemen and equivalent for the ladies. For formal nights: Evening gown, cocktail dress or pantsuits for ladies; suit, combination or dinner jackets for gentlemen. The self-service restaurants are casual.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT COMING ALONE

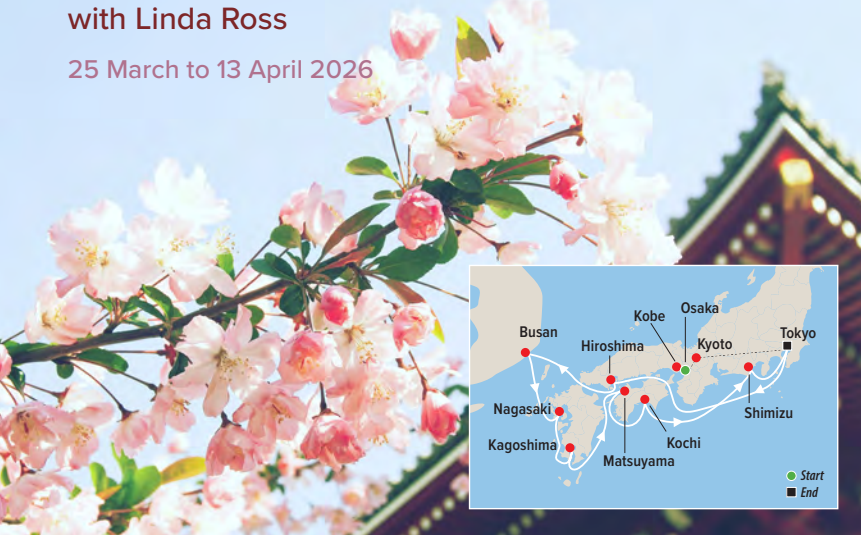
About a third of people on Travelrite Tours travel alone. There are group activities every day. The cruise is fully escorted and will be a great fun holiday. Each evening you will dine with the group at our reserved tables. You will meet a fun group of people with a shared love of gardens and have a fabulous time.

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Prices per person in Australian Dollars

Cabin / Description	Deck	Twin-share	Single
IE Inside	8,9,10,11,12	\$ 13,490	\$ 17,990
ID Inside	9,10,11	\$ 13,590	\$ 18,190
IC Inside	8,12,14	\$ 13,690	\$ 18,290
OW Outside (Obstructed)	8	\$ 14,190	\$ 18,890
OC Outside	5,6	\$ 14,790	\$ 19,990
O5 Balcony	10,11	\$ 14,990	\$ 20,590
BF Balcony	12,14	\$ 15,190	\$ 20,990
BE Balcony	10,11,12	\$ 15,690	\$ 21,890
BD Balcony	10,11	\$ 15,790	\$ 22,190
BC Balcony	12,14	\$ 15,990	\$ 22,590
BB Balcony	11,12	\$ 16,190	\$ 22,890
B2 Balcony	10	\$ 16,590	\$ 23,590
MD Suite	9	\$ 16,990	\$ 24,490
MB Suite	9	\$ 17,490	\$ 25,290
Included port & handling charges		\$ 580	\$ 910
Included ship gratuities		\$ 262	\$ 262
Included air taxes as at 1 March 2025		\$ 200	\$ 200

Availability: All cabins are subject to availability. A limited number of cabins are available for single occupancy. *Please call for fares and information on other cabin categories.*

Included in the tour price:

- Economy-class air travel from Melbourne and Sydney to Tokyo and return from Osaka.
- Tour leadership by Linda Ross.
- Travel on the Diamond Princess in the selected cabin category.
- All meals, entertainment, and service charges on the Diamond Princess.
- Private activities on board.
- 3 nights' accommodation in Tokyo and 4 nights' accommodation in Kyoto in 4-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis.
- A welcome and farewell dinner.
- Sightseeing tours in Tokyo, Hiroshima, Busan, Nagasaki, Kagoshima, Matsuyama, Kochi, Kobe, Shimizu and Kyoto.
- Cruise management by Travelrite International.
- Port and handling charges, cruise taxes on Diamond Princess.
- Onboard gratuities.
- Air taxes as of 1 March 2025. Any increases will be added to your account.

Not included in the price:

- Travel insurance
- Additional travel arrangements not detailed in the itinerary. These will be quoted for separately.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Drinks on board and meals not mentioned in the itinerary.

Extending: You can stay longer in Japan for minimal cost. *Please contact 1800 630 343 for more information.*



TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL



General information and booking conditions

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour organizer. The Diamond Princess is operated by Princess Cruises and the fly/cruise arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions and general information detailed in the Princess Cruises brochure 2026. All passengers must complete the Princess Cruises online check in and Travelrite International booking form.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: A non-refundable deposit of \$900 per passenger should be sent with a complete Travelrite International booking form that lists your requested cabin category. As soon as the booking is confirmed (usually within 24 hours), a cruise confirmation advice will be posted to the client. The confirmation advice will contain all details. Final payments are due to be paid to Travelrite International 91 days prior to the commencement of the fly/cruise. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to payments by Visa, Mastercard or AMEX card.

CANCELLATION CHARGES: Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to Departure	Cancellation Fee
Over 91 days	loss of deposit
90 days or less	loss of 100% of full fare
Non-appearance/no written notice:	100% of full fare

REFUNDS: The cruise is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilized after the tour has commenced.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will require a valid passport. If not an Australian passport holder check with Travelrite International for visa requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Adequate travel insurance is highly recommended to cover cruise members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the cruise and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

BAGGAGE: Passengers qualify for a 23kg free baggage allowance on flights to join or return from the cruise.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The fly/cruise arrangements have been made on the basis of a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event that less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 90 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelrite International Pty Ltd is the tour organizer. Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to, or in connection with these fly/cruises, shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any services included in fly/cruises, or by act of God. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery break-down, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the fly/cruise. The passage contract between the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this fly/cruise and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any fly/cruise and/or make such changes in the fly/cruises as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the fly/cruise. This contract shall be construed

in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria. Attention is also directed to the terms and conditions of the Diamond Princess fly/cruise passage contract with Diamond Princess, detailed in the Princess Cruises brochure or on the website. If you can't find this contract please contact Travelrite International and we will tell you where you can see it.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a non-refundable deposit of \$900 per person to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd
423 Whitehorse Road,
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 630 343

Phone: (03) 9836 2522

Email: sales@travelrite.com.au

www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a well-established travel company which has been operating in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for more than 40 years. It is fully ATAS accredited (No. A10538) and fully IATA credited and directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international tour and transport operators. Travelrite International has been operating special interest tours for over 38 years, and now runs over 120 tours a year. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association – ATIA.