



GOLDEN PAVILION

Enjoy a week of guided sightseeing before arriving in Kitakami, Japan, to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Concord's Sister City relationship. You will experience two days of superior hospitality in Kitakami and leave with cultural friendships that will last a lifetime. Travelers will enjoy private home stays while in Kitakami. However, hotel accommodations can be arranged for a small fee.

Travel Dates:  
**October 2-12, 2009**

**\$3,950 per person. Price includes:**

- Double-occupancy accommodations (Single-occupancy accommodations will add \$620 to your total trip costs.)
- All Admission Fees
- Guide Services
- Departure Tax
- Japanese Banquet at Kinugawa Gyoen
- Private Motorcoach Sightseeing Transportation
- Cruise on Lake Ashi
- 7 American Breakfasts

  
 1950 Parkside Drive, MS/03  
 Concord, CA 94519



35<sup>th</sup> Sister City Anniversary  
Kitakami, Japan

# Travel JAPAN

Experience 10 days touring  
Japan – complete with  
Home Stays in  
**KITAKAMI, JAPAN**



KITAKAMI CHERRY BLOSSOMS

  
**Concord Ambassadors**  
 Concord, California ☘ Kitakami, Japan - Sister Cities Since 1974

[www.ConcordAmbassadors.org](http://www.ConcordAmbassadors.org)



NARA PARK



TANZAN SHRINE



TODAIJI TEMPLE



▶ Sightsee by private motorcoach  
**KYOTO/NARA**

Enjoy two full days of sightseeing in the KYOTO/NARA areas. See the Golden Pavilion, Buddhist temples, Shintō shrines, a trio of palaces, and dozens of gardens and museums. Kyoto is the former capital of Japan, and was the center of politics and culture for 1,200 years. Seventeen historic sites including the Kiyomizu-dera Temple and Nijo-jo Castle are designated as World Cultural sites.

The year 2010 marks the 1300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Nara Heijo-kyo Capital (Heijo-kyo). Nara is located in the Kinai plain, and remains full of historic treasures, including some of Japan's oldest Buddhist temples such as Todaiji, (a huge temple housing Japan's largest Buddha statue).

[www.kyoto.travel](http://www.kyoto.travel)

[www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/nara/index.html](http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/nara/index.html)

▶ Take the bullet train to **ODAWARA**  
and motorcoach to **HAKONE**

Hakone is part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park; famous for hot springs, outdoor activities, natural beauty of the beautiful view of nearby Mt. Fuji.

[www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/kanagawa/hakone.html](http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/kanagawa/hakone.html)

▶ Enjoy one night of Japanese-style accommodations in **KINUGAWA**

[www.japaneseguesthouses.com/db/kinugawa](http://www.japaneseguesthouses.com/db/kinugawa)

▶ Motorcoach to  
**MATSUSHIMA BAY** and **SENDAI**

Visit a castle town called, "The City of Trees." View over 260 splendid islands on Matsushima Bay, considered one of the three most beautiful sites in Japan.

Visit Zuiganji Shrine, Godaido Hall and Kanran-Tei Villa while in Matsushima.

[www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/miyagi/sendai.html](http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/regional/miyagi/sendai.html)

▶ Motorcoach to **KITAKAMI**

Be welcomed to Concord's Sister City as we celebrate 35 years of friendship and cultural exchange.

Kitakami is famous for the sakura (Cherry Blossoms) that bloom in Tenshochi Park, which is regarded as one of the best hundred places in Japan to view sakura. Another hallmark of the city is Oni Kenbai, a traditional sword dance where the dancers dress as demons, performed during summer festivals.



MOUNTAIN RAILWAY

[www.city.kitakami.iwate.jp](http://www.city.kitakami.iwate.jp)

<http://kitakami-photoblog.blogspot.com>

[www.houseofflameandglass.com/letssharing/](http://www.houseofflameandglass.com/letssharing/)

▶ Travel by shinkansen (bullet train) back to **TOKYO**

Return to Tokyo in preparation for your return home.

Enjoy Western-style lodging in Kyoto, Hakone and Sendai. Home Stays in Kitakami are optional but encouraged to experience the true Japanese culture.

Valid passports are required and reservations are being accepted now. There is a \$300 deposit required per person with a completed application form. Final payment is due July 27, 2009. Make checks payable to: "Polaris Tours." No credit is given for any meals or activities not taken.

For more information about the sister city relationship or the trip, call (925) 671-3495.