



## Updated cherry blossom forecast



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### Media Release – Japan National Tourist Organization – March 15, 2007

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has announced its second cherry blossom forecast for Eastern and Western Japan for the 2007 season.

According to the JMA, temperatures in both regions were significantly higher than average during February and continued to be higher than average at the beginning of March. From here on there is a strong possibility that temperatures will be average or lower than average, however due to the warmer weather to date, cherry blossoms are forecast to bloom earlier than their average year's schedule in many areas across these regions. The updated estimated blooming dates for some major cities are listed below.

Full bloom (no less than 80% of the blossoms are open) and optimum viewing time occurs approximately one week after the estimated blooming date for the regions included in this forecast. The JMA advises that actual blooming dates may vary from the estimated dates by approximately 2-3 days on average.

The JMA has also announced that due to inaccuracies in some of the temperature data used, the initial forecasts for four cities - Tokyo, Shizuoka, Takamatsu and Matsuyama - have been revised. They have issued an apology and are reviewing their work system. The revised initial forecast for Tokyo is indicated below in parentheses.

#### Estimated blooming dates

Tokyo	March 23 (initial forecast March 21)
Nagoya	March 23
Kanazawa	April 1
Kyoto	March 28
Nara	March 27
Osaka	March 26
Tokushima	March 28
Hiroshima	March 26
Fukuoka	March 21

Rain, wind and temperatures can have a major effect on the cherry blossom viewing (hanami) season, such as delaying or shortening it considerably. A further forecast for Eastern and Western Japan will be announced on March 20. The initial forecast for the Tohoku region will be announced on March 20, with updates on March 28 and April 4, and for Hokkaido on April 11 with updates on April 18 and 25.

Further updates from the JMA will be posted at:

[www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/seasonal/sakura2007/forecast.php](http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/seasonal/sakura2007/forecast.php)

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