

Every April people from around Japan flock to Joetsu to see Takada Park's 4,000 cherry trees in bloom. The breathtaking blossoms and Takada Castle's famous three-story tower make for a mesmerizing sight that can only be witnessed once a year.

Come nightfall, lanterns transform the scene.

Takada Castle and the surrounding cherry blossoms are reflected in the moat, and visitors are transported to an ethereal dream world.

Food stalls and shops gather in the park throughout the festival, and visitors can enjoy eating under the cherry blossoms.

About the Festival

Takada Park is located on the former grounds of Takada Castle. The origins of the park's cherry blossom festival go back to 1909, when the Imperial Japanese Army garrisoned in the castle ruins and planted 2,200 cherry trees. The trees first flowered in 1914. When the grounds were opened to the public

for cherry blossom viewing in 1917, word of its beauty took the country by storm.

The castle's three-story tower was rebuilt in 1993, further accentuating the flowers' charm. Today, Takada Park's cherry blossoms have been captivating visitors for over 100 years.