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## Sakura Hanami: Celebrating the Japanese Cherry Blossom, Exhibit Brochure

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## **About the Library**



The Universal Orlando Foundation Library, known as the "Rosen Library," serves the research needs and interests of the Rosen College's students, staff, and faculty, as well as the needs of the greater UCF community. The Library also serves as an information resource center for the hospitality industry in central Florida. Our beautiful, 9,000 square-foot branch library is an integral component of the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

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## **Sakura Hanami: Celebrating the Japanese Cherry Blossom**

An Exhibit at UCF's  
Universal Orlando Foundation Library

## About the Exhibit

For centuries, the Japanese have welcomed Spring by celebrating the blooming of the Sakura, cherry blossom trees. Beginning in February, the country's anticipation is heightened as they attempt to predict when the white, peach, and pink flowers of the trees will bloom, ushering in the beauty and rebirth of a new season. The trees will first bloom in March in the south before moving northward, rolling like a wave, across Japan and ending in early May. Locals and tourists alike will spend weeks following "the Front" while gathering with family and friends to attend festivals, eating traditional Japanese delights such as hanami dango (sweet dumplings), mochi (sticky rice filled with red bean paste), and drinking a lot of Sake. For the Japanese, Sakura hanami is not just a time to enjoy looking at pretty flowers. It's a time to think about change and the unlimited possibilities of life. One is meant to walk slowly, breathe deeply, and enjoy every moment. The goal of this exhibit is to inspire you to learn more about Japan and its traditions through the beauty of the Sakura Hanami.

## Festivals Around the World

The blooming of the cherry blossom is not just an event in Japan, but is celebrated in locations all over the world. While the second most well known destination to see the cherry blossoms is Washington DC, there are cherry blossom festivals all over the world. Some of the most notable locations are Singapore, Vancouver, and India, where cherry blossoms bloom in the Autumn, not the Spring.

### Did you know there is cherry blossom tea ?

When Japanese cherry blossom petals are steeped in hot water, the result is a rosy colored herbal tea with hints of apricot and almond. This fragrant brew can calm skin irritation and boosts collagen production for anti-aging benefits.

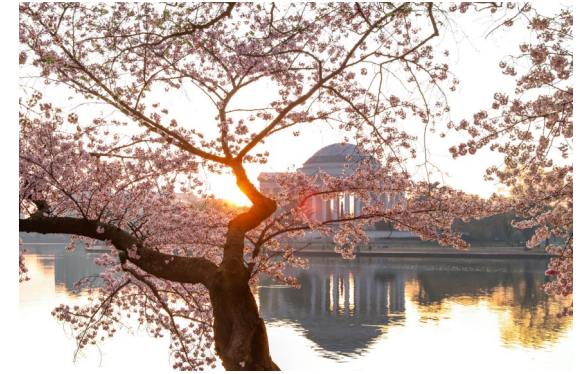


Photo found at [happilyeverexploring.com](http://happilyeverexploring.com)

### Gift to US, Washington

The blossoming cherry trees we see every spring in Washington DC were given to the People of the United States as a gift from the People of Japan in 1912. The First Lady, Mrs. Helen Taft, who had previously lived in Japan, took up the cause of creating an "avenue of cherry blossom trees." In 1909, the Mayor of Tokyo, Yukio Ozaki, supported the donation of approximately 2000 trees. It took years of testing and a number of attempts to get healthy trees planted along the Potomac River. Despite a number of setbacks, by 1912, 3000 trees comprised of 12 different varieties of cherry blossom were successfully planted on the northern bank of the Tidal Basin. These are the same trees tourists will see today when they visit Washington DC.