

# the traditions of japan come alive



Discover Japan's top festivals and vibrant seasons with Princess®. Our itineraries are crafted to give you more opportunities to experience these celebrations while sailing on Diamond Princess®.



## spring flowers

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### Bask in the enchanting beauty of Japan's spring flowers

Hand-crafted itineraries move from South to North from March to April, following the predicted blooming cycles of Japan's delicate Spring Flowers. Experience the ephemeral beauty of Spring, and see why this is the most popular season for traveling in Japan.

#### SAIL DATES:

- Mar 15, 24;  
Apr 2, 11, 20, 2020
- Mar 15, 24;  
Apr 2, 11, 20, 2021
- Mar 14, 23;  
Apr 1, 10, 19, 2022

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## gion festival | Kyoto (via Osaka or Kobe) | began 869 AD

### Experience a festival with over 1,000 years of history

One of the most iconic festivals in Japan, featuring massive, hand-crafted "Yama" and "Hoko" floats that are constructed every year and without the use of nails. Watch hundreds of participants marching to traditional music.

**FESTIVAL TIMING:**  
Procession 1 – Jul 17,  
Procession 2 – Jul 24

#### SAIL DATES:

- Jul 10, 19, 2020
- Jul 10, 19, 2021

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## tenjin festival | Osaka | began 951 AD

### Celebrate to entertain the god of scholarship

Led by the drums of the red-hatted ganji, syncopated hand clapping, and dancing guides, an ornate portable shrine carries the spirit of Sugawara Michizane through the streets of Osaka and onto the water, ending in a glorious parade of glowing boats and a spectacular fireworks display.

**FESTIVAL TIMING:**  
Main procession  
and fireworks – Jul 25

#### SAIL DATES:

- Jul 10, 19, 2020
- Jul 10, 19, 2021

## nebuta festival | Aomori | origins are shrouded in mystery

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### Dance in a parade of sound and light

Answer the call of the “Rassera” and join the sacred dance of the Nebuta Festival. A traditional Haneto dancing costume is your ticket to join the parade with its elaborate floats, crafted by hand from wire, lights and delicate washi paper.

FESTIVAL TIMING:  
Aug 2 to Aug 7

#### SAIL DATES:

- Jul 19, 27; Aug 4, 2020
- Jul 19, 27; Aug 4, 2021

## kanto festival | Akita | began approximately in 1789

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### Marvel as paper lanterns illuminate the streets

The peal of a bamboo flute signals the beginning of this incredible display of strength and balance. Two hundred and thirty Kanto poles, weighing up to 100 pounds and stretching 40 feet into the sky, are balanced on hands, shoulders, faces and backs and paraded through the streets of Akita.

FESTIVAL TIMING:  
Aug 3 to Aug 6

#### SAIL DATES:

- Jul 27; Aug 4, 2020
- Jul 27, Aug 4, 2021

## yosakoi dance festival | Kochi | began 1954

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### Discover one of Japan’s largest dance competitions

This vibrant affair draws over 200 teams from across the country to show off their choreographed routines and exquisite costumes. Some 20,000 participants of all ages can be found dancing through the 16 outdoor and indoor stages set up throughout the city.

FESTIVAL TIMING:  
Aug 9 to Aug 12

#### SAIL DATES:

- Jul 27; Aug 4, 2020
- Jul 27, Aug 4, 2021

## awa dance festival | Tokushima | began approximately in 1586

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### Learn unique styles of dance

The famous “Dance of Fools” is the centerpiece of the Awa Dance Festival, with over 10,000 dancers and in excess of a million observers flooding into Tokushima, where the city center becomes a giant dance party.

FESTIVAL TIMING:  
Aug 12 to Aug 15

#### SAIL DATES:

- Jul 27; Aug 4, 2020
- Jul 27, Aug 4, 2021

## kumano fireworks festival | Kumano | began about 300 years ago

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### Watch 10,000 fireworks in a glorious natural setting

This deeply spiritual area, nestled on the southern end of the Kii Peninsula, is host to one of Japan’s top fireworks displays. More than 10,000 explosions light up the sky over the natural amphitheater of Shichiri Mihama Beach.

FESTIVAL TIMING:  
Aug 17

#### SAIL DATES:

- Aug 4, 15, 2020
- Aug 4, 14, 2021

(seen from the deck of Diamond Princess®)

## kishiwada danjiri festival | Osaka | began in 1703

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### Watch wooden floats race through the streets of Osaka

Arguably the most famous of Japan’s Danjiri Festivals, the Kishiwada Danjiri Festival in Osaka occurs over two weekends in the fall. In October, more than 40 wooden floats race through the streets of town, pulled by dozens from the local neighborhoods and cheered on by the sounds of traditional drumming and music.

FESTIVAL TIMING:  
2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of September, 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of October

(Oct 9, 10, 2021)

#### SAIL DATES:

- Oct 1, 7, 2021

## fall foliage

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### Marvel at the bold changing colors of Autumn

Be inspired by nature’s magnificent colors in the Fall as you meditate on vibrant red unfolding into brilliant yellow and daring orange against a tranquil backdrop of ancient temples and shrines.

#### SAIL DATES:

- Oct 16, 24;  
Nov 2, 11, 20;  
Dec 7, 2020
- Nov 8, 17, 26;  
Dec 5, 2021