



Photobook Sakura (Cherry Trees) in Slovenia

**July 2023
Embassy of Japan in Slovenia**

Photobook Sakura (Cherry Trees) in Slovenia

CONTENT

- ① Ljubljana (P.4-6)
- ② Maribor (P.7-8)
- ③ Murska Sobota (P.9-10)
- ④ Radlje ob Dravi (P.11-12)
- ⑤ Slovenj Gradec (P.13-14)
- ⑥ Kočevje (P.15-16)
- ⑦ Lendava (P.17)
- ⑧ Domžale (P.18)
- ⑨ Grosuplje (P.19-20)
- ⑩ Logatec (P.21-22)
- ⑪ Bled (P.23)
- ⑫ Postojna (P.24-P.25)
- ⑬ Piran (P.26)
- ⑭ Gornja Radgona (P.27)



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Sakura in Japan

Sakura has a special place in Japanese society. The cherry tree is said to have been a tree inhabited by the god of grain and worshipped by farmers since ancient times. **Sakura** has been one of the most popular subjects of literature, painting, music and other art forms as a symbol of spring.

Sakura is also a symbol of 'rebirth' as it blooms beautifully all at once in early spring, and at the same time, it is a symbol of Japanese spiritual culture based on 'impermanence' as the life of the beautiful blossoms lasts only a week or two before they all fall off at once.

Hanami

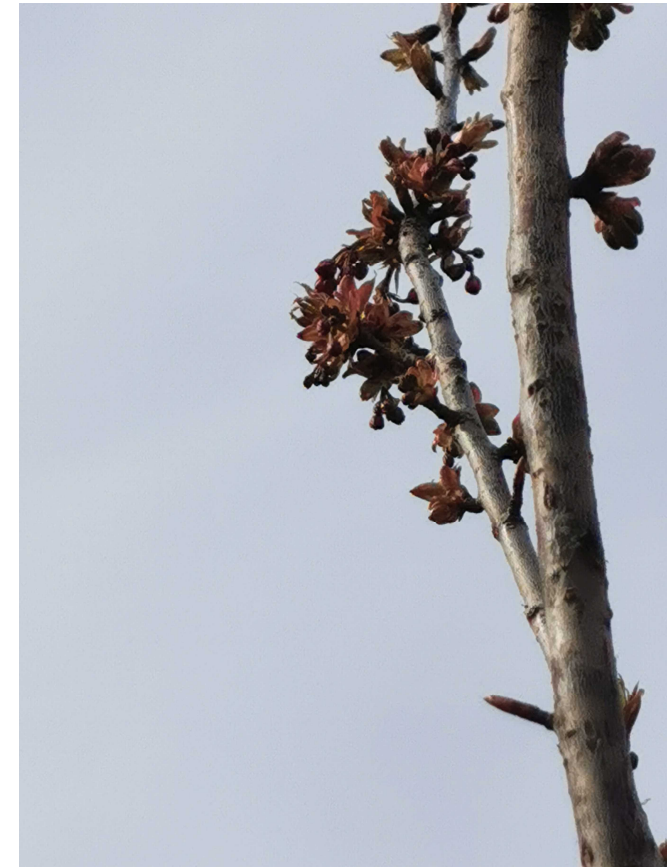
Hanami, which means admiring and enjoying the beauty of cherry blossoms in Japanese, a traditional Japanese custom with a history of over 1200 years. An Emperor organized the first **Hanami** banquet in the 9th century, and afterwards **Hanami** was held mainly among the nobility. In the 16th century, the leaders of the Samurai, who were in power at the time, organized **Hanami** banquets for thousands of guests. In the 18th century, **Hanami** became a popular event among the common people. The common people formed groups of family members and friends, brought packed lunches and drinks, and held feasts under the full bloom of cherry trees planted on banks and in parks. This custom has continued to the present day. In the cherry blossom season, fast food stalls are lined at viewing spots and the cherry blossoms are lit up at night.

Ljubljana

- Trees have been present in NIB and Navje Memorial Park since 1999.
- 32 trees were planted in December 2022 at campuses of the University of Ljubljana in cooperation with University of Yamanashi.
- In April 2023, Hanami festival took place with several side events including a lecture about how the Japanese enjoy Hanami, followed by Japanese food and sake tasting.



Navje Memorial Park



Saplings at the University of Ljubljana, started to bloom, April 2023

Ljubljana



Hanami Festival in Ljubljana, April 2023

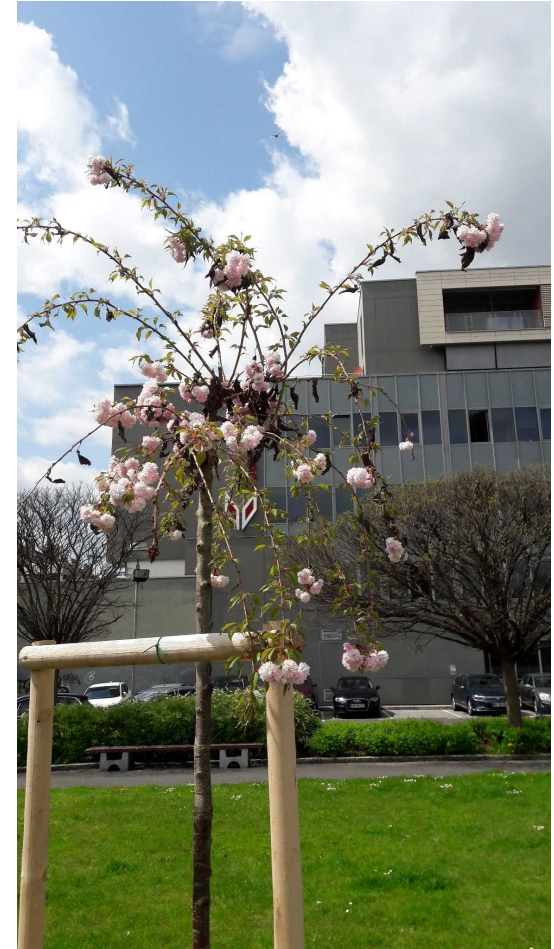
Ljubljana



Hanami in Ljubljana (NIB), 2019

Maribor

- 22 trees were planted at Rakušev trg in November 2022 in cooperation with a Japanese company.



Saplings started to bloom, May 2023

Maribor



Planting ceremony, November 2022



Murska Sobota

- 30 trees were planted in EXPANO in March 2022 in cooperation with Zaria.
- In March 2023, Hanami festival was held with attendance of Ms Irena Šinko, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and Mr Aleksander Jevšek, Minister of Cohesion and Regional Development. The event included cultural activities, such as musical performance, Japanese food tasting.



Planting ceremony, March 2022



Trees growing, March 2023

Murska Sobota



Hanami Festival in Murska Sobota,
March 2023



Radlje ob Dravi

- 21 trees were planted at the gateway to the town in October 2022 in cooperation with a Japanese company.
- In May 2023, they held a Sakura festival with cultural activities including Japanese poetry reading, yukata dressing and origami. Visitors tasted Japanese food and sake.



Sakura trees at the gateway to the town, May 2023

Radlje ob Dravi



Saplings bloom and welcome visitors, May 2023



Slovenj Gradec

- 3 trees were planted next to the Culture hall in May 2022 in cooperation with the twinned Myoko city, Japan.
- In June 2023, 10 trees were additionally planted at the same site.



Sakura trees planted, May 2022 and June 2023

Slovenj Gradec

Sakura trees planted, May 2022



Kočevje

- 30 trees were planted at Dimnikarska pot, along Rinža river in March 2022 in cooperation with Yaskawa, SiDG.



Saplings along Rinža river bloom, May 2023

Kočevje



Saplings along Rinža river bloom, May 2023

Lendava

- 60 trees were planted near the football field for 690m in March 2022 in cooperation with Daihen Varstroj.



Sakura saplings, March 2023

Domžale

- 85 trees were planted by Kamniška Bistrica river in May 2022 in cooperation with Kansai Helios.



Sakura trees, March 2023

Grosuplje

- 80 trees were planted along Pod gozdom for 250 m in October 2021 in cooperation with Toyota Adria.



Sakura trees along the road, blooming, April 2022

Grosuplje



Trees blooming and growing, April 2022

Logatec

- 3 trees were planted near a round-about of Pavšičeva street 29 in April 2022 in cooperation with Sumitomo Lonstroff.



Sakura trees blossom, Spring 2023

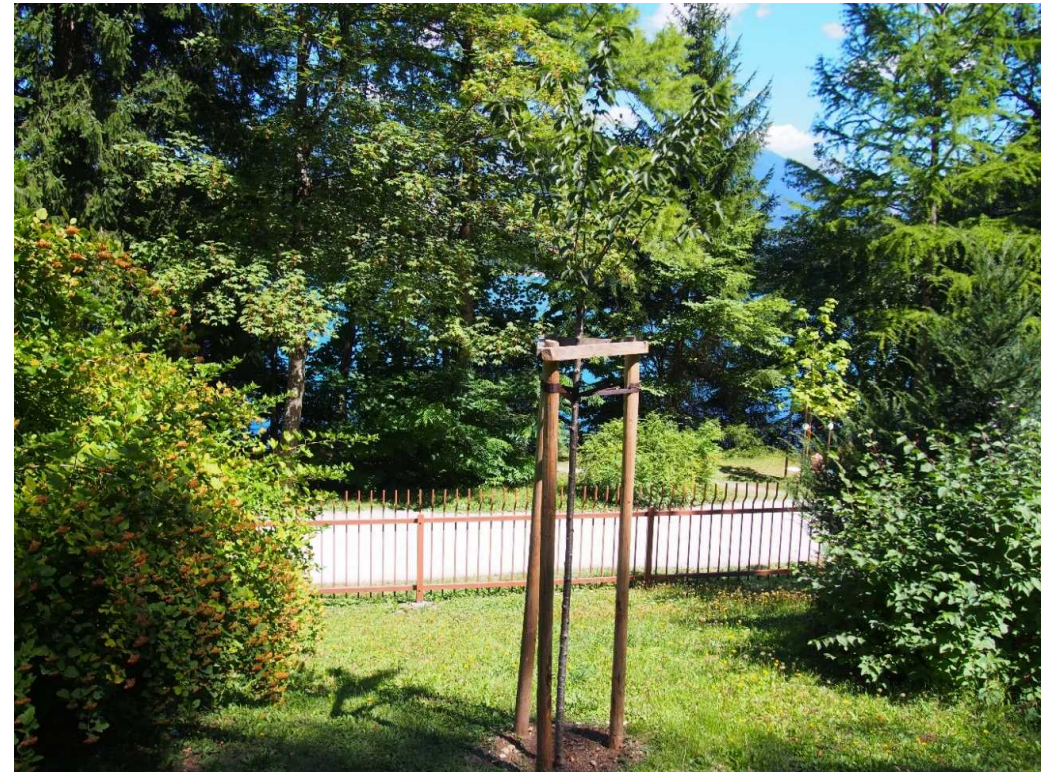
Logatec



Sakura trees blossom, Spring 2023

Bled

- 12 trees were planted in April 2022 across the city including Hotel Vila Bled, Villa Zlatorog, Hotel Triglav and Zdraviliški park in cooperation with a Japanese company.



Sakura trees by Lake Bled, August 2022

Postojna

- 7 trees were planted in May 2022 in the city park and in front of the Notranjska Regional Museum in cooperation with a Japanese company.

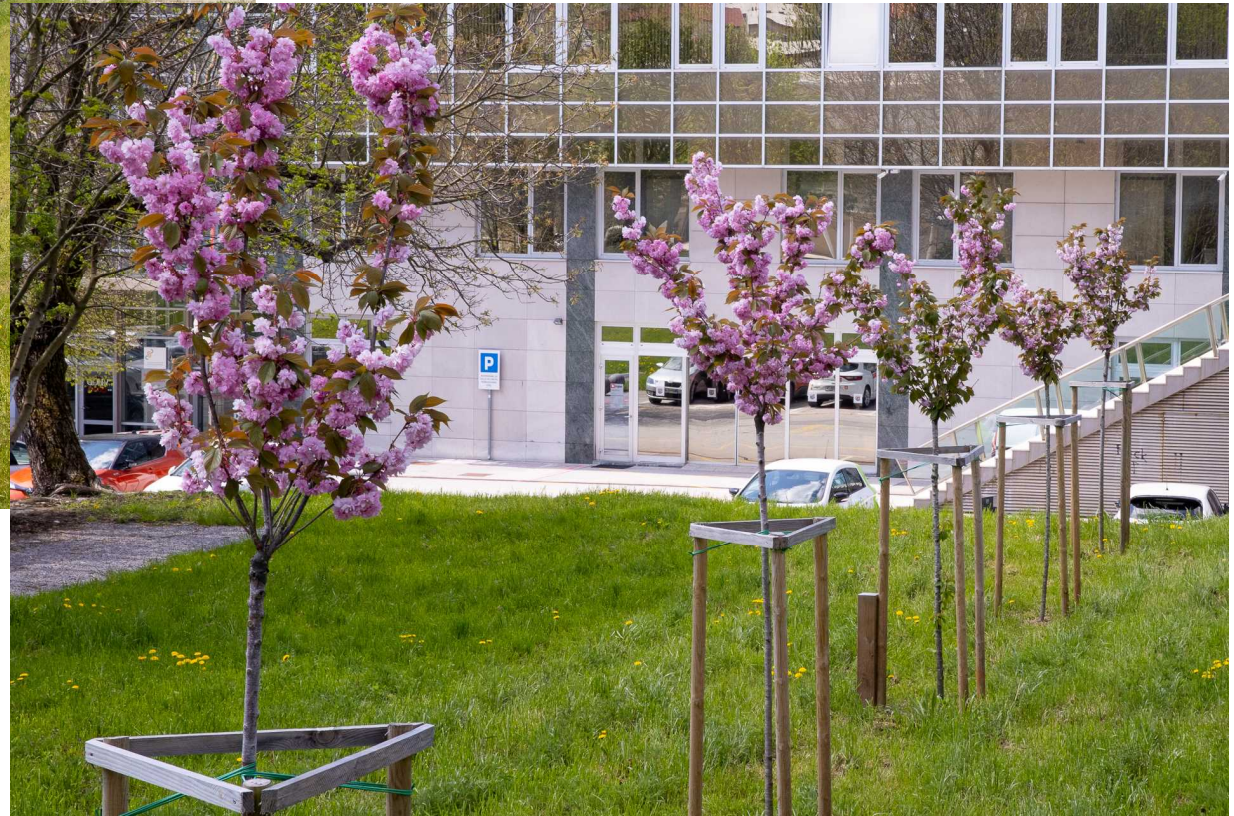


Sakura trees in the city park, May 2023

Postojna



Sakura trees in the city park, May 2023



Piran

- 20 trees were planted in March 2023 in front of the medical centre building in cooperation with Shiozaki Building.



Saplings bloom, April 2023



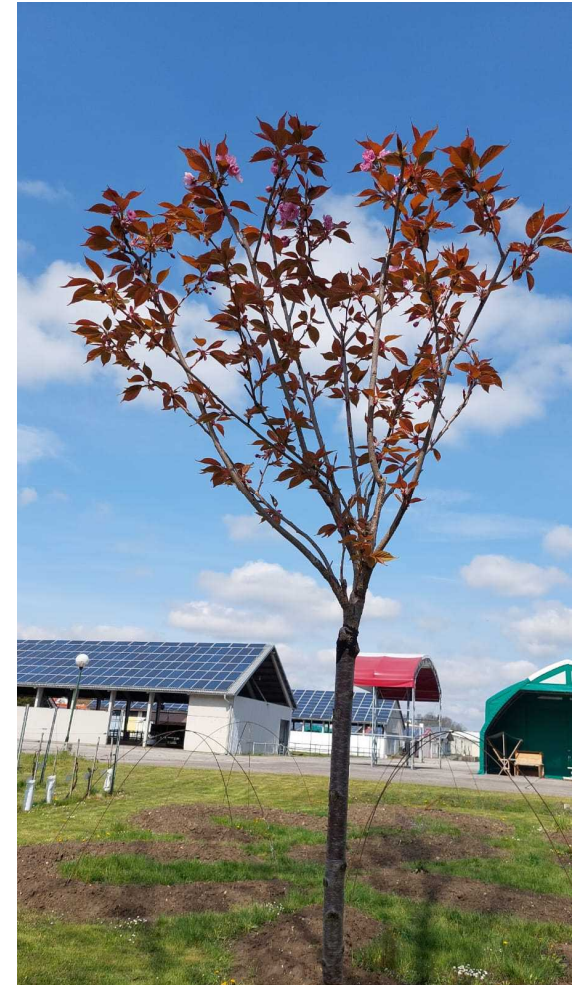
Planting ceremony, March 2023

Gornja Radgona

- In August 2022, a Sakura tree was planted in the Pomurski Sejem plantation field, marking Japan's participation as a partner country in International Agricultural and Food Fair, AGRA.



Tree planted, August 2022



First flowers have bloomed, April 2023