

Cherry Blossom Season 2027: the food cheat sheet

 Late March - early April 2027

EAT THIS

- Hanami bento from a depachika basement (Daimaru or Takashimaya) eaten under Maruyama Park's blossoms; sakura-mochi and hanami dango from Nishiki Market; kaiseki with garden views if you booked far enough ahead; tea-house wagashi in the afternoons.

THE PLAN

- Kaiseki restaurants with blossom-view seats take bookings 1-3 months ahead and fill by late January.
- Book sakura-season hotels the previous autumn.
- Eat lunch kaiseki instead of dinner.
- same kitchens, softer prices, easier tables.
- and picnic the evenings like locals do.

When do Kyoto's cherry blossoms bloom in 2027?

Typically late March to early April; the front shifts by a week either way. Build a 5-7 day window around the first week of April if you can.

How far ahead should I book restaurants?

Blossom-view kaiseki fills 1-3 months out. Book in January. Regular restaurants are busy but manageable; lunch is far easier than dinner everywhere.

EAT-THIS GLOSSARY

ORDER THIS	WHAT IT IS
Hanami bento	layered picnic box from a depachika food hall
Sakura-mochi	pink rice cake in a salted cherry leaf
Hanami dango	pink-white-green rice dumpling skewer
Kaiseki	multi-course seasonal fine dining — book Jan for blossom seats
Obanzai	Kyoto home-style small plates
Yudofu	simmered tofu, temple-district speciality
Matcha parfait	Uji tea district's dessert flex
Nishiki Market	the 400-year-old food street — go before 4pm

BOOK BEFORE IT'S GONE

Festival dates mean festival demand. Tables with views and hotels near the action go to whoever booked first — use the live guide for tours, tables and hotels:

thingstodokyoto.com/cherry-blossom-dining